

Think Talk Open Exchange

Repeat once
for each
person in
your group
(triad or
quad)

THINK

TALK



OPEN EXCHANGE



purpose

This routine is designed to ensure equal participation and make sure everyone contributes during class discussion. It also helps to build active listening skills and the ability to build on and connect to others' ideas.

Synthesising
& Organising
Ideas

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine is designed to ensure equal participation and make sure everyone contributes during class discussion. It also helps to build active listening skills and the ability to build on and connect to others' ideas.

APPLICATION

When and where can it be used?

Use this routine:

- ❑ To discuss and explore perspectives on current and events, to reflect and share what one has learned so far, to explore and process, to discuss possible problem-solving strategies.
- ❑ **NB:** as with any discussion, content matters. Meaningful discussions emerge from meaningful content.

ASSESSMENT

How can I use this routine as an assessment?

As this routine exists in a moment of time, there exists both opportunities and challenges when assessing.

- ❑ *Are learners able to make connections to what others have said?*
- ❑ *Do they ask probing questions or clarification where needed?*
- ❑ *Are students able to build on one another's ideas to deepen their own understanding?*
- ❑ *Can they spot ideas both different and similar to their own?*

LAUNCH

What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?

1. **Set up** → Inform the learners of what you want to discuss and what you hope they will get out of these discussions.
2. **Think** → Learners independently and silently reflect on the learning by either listing, drawing or writing, or a combination of them (5-10 minutes). Prompts may be used to help guide the reflection.
3. **Talk** → Learners form triads or quads. Each person will be given 1-2 minutes to share their thoughts and reflections with the group. All other group members need to be listening to the speaker and as such are not allowed to interrupt. Repeat for the other members of the group. This phase may or may not be documented, depending on the focus and purpose.
4. **Open Exchange** → Groups are given time to openly discuss what was shared and reflected upon during the Talk phase. It is an opportunity to have learners examine connections between ideas or trends in responses that might be appearing.
5. **Share the thinking** → Groups nominate one person from the group to share a connection/ trend or commonality between responses with the whole class. Documenting the shared thinking may occur at this point.

Adapted from Rhonda Bondie by Alice Vigors 2018