



IF...	THEN YOU NEED...
You want to ensure that each student is engaged in discussion.	Pairs
You have some very vocal students who intimidate the others.	Pairs or triads, putting the vocal students together
Your students are at various levels in their understanding. You want the ones who are struggling to be able to listen a lot.	Mixed-ability groups
Your students are at various levels in their understanding. You want all students to be able to contribute at their own level of understanding.	Same-ability groups
You want to encourage good turn-taking and conversational ability.	Triads doing pair work with one functioning as listener or recorder
You want to give students a chance to think about an issue or answer on their own first, before sharing it.	Think–pair–share (Thinking alone, then sharing with a partner, then sharing with a small group)