Think Aloud in Pairs for Problem Solving (TAPPS) • Role Cards (front side)

The Problem Solver

Think Aloud Pairs Problem Solving Protocol

- Read and solve the problem as much as you can on your own.
- Whenever you read or write say aloud the thoughts you are thinking to understand and solve the problem.
- Afterwards listen to your partner’s report. Then discuss your processes and solution approaches with your partner.
- Finally, discuss the problem and finish the solution.

Metacognitive Starters

- I am looking for …
- I notice …
- What’s important is …
- This reminds me of …
- I am thinking about …
- What I know is …
- A picture/graph I can draw is …
- I wonder …
- A question I have is …
- I am confused by …
- What might be true is …
- I predict …
- I could try …
- An equation I could write is …
- The big idea is …
- What I’ve now know is …
- What is interesting is …

The Listener

Think Aloud Pairs Problem Solving Protocol

- Listen to your partner’s Think Aloud comments and watch your partner’s solution work.
- Make notes about your partner’s reading and problem solving processes.
- Prompt your partner to say aloud his/her thoughts whenever they stop thinking aloud.
- Afterwards tell your partner what you noticed about their reading and problem solving processes.
- Finally, discuss the problem and help finish the solution.

Metacognitive Coaching Prompts

- What are you focusing on?
- What are you thinking now?
- Could you tell me more?
- What are you doing (or writing) now?
- Please elaborate.
- I can’t follow that.
- Run that by me again.