



How to Use the Think-Share-Advise-Revise (TSAR) Strategy

When scientists work, they often revise their ideas. They use new information they have learned to make their revisions. Sometimes this information comes from things they have discovered by doing an investigation. Other times, it comes from talking to other people and getting feedback from them. If you work the way scientists do, it will help improve your methods and your results, not only in science class, but in other classes as well.

The Think-Share-Advise-Revise, or TSAR, strategy is a way to help you think carefully about your work. As part of the strategy, you will get feedback from a partner. You will also revise your ideas to arrive at the best answer. This helps you continue to learn, something that will be as important when you are an adult as it is now.

The four stages of the TSAR strategy are:

1. **Think** about the question you are answering. Work by yourself to do this step. Then, write your answer to the question in complete sentences.
2. **Share** your work with a partner by reading your answer word for word aloud. Your partner will also read his or her answer. Do not add any additional information or explanation. Simply read what you wrote.
3. Ask your partner for **advice** on your answer. Your partner should give you feedback. You should give your partner feedback as well. Try to give feedback that will help your partner improve his or her answer. For example, although it is nice to say, “Good job,” the compliment does not help improve answers. You might ask yourself some of the following questions about your partner’s work:
 - *Was everything in my partner’s answer correct?*
 - *Was everything in my partner’s answer clear and easily understood?*
 - *Is there any part of my partner’s answer that would be helped by having an example?*
 - *Is there any additional information my partner should include?*
4. **Revise** your work using a different-colored pen or pencil. This helps you keep track of what you have learned. You should work by yourself in this stage. Add anything that you thought of that should be in your answer. Consider all of your partner’s advice. If you do not feel it was good advice, you do not have to take it, but at least think carefully about it. If the advice was good, be sure to add or change your answer to match the feedback.