**TSAR: Think, Share, Advise, Revise**

TSAR (Think, Share, Advise, Revise) is a peer tutoring strategy created by BSCS (Biological Sciences Curriculum Study) that helps students gain a deep understanding of the concept at hand. Talking about what you read helps you *understand* what you read. That is because reading involves input, and speaking involves generating, hallmarks of information processing. When we generate sentences in speech, we reconfigure knowledge based on its meaning to us. Other people listen to what we say and give us feedback on whether our explanations make sense. That feedback tells us if we need to reread or rethink. This back-and-forth process is essential to constructing understanding.

In this strategy, students:

1. Think – Students read over the work that they have generated and think about how it meets the established criteria. Ask them to use the rubric to self-assess.
* As this occurs, students may note problems or shortcomings in their work. Naturally, you encourage students to work to correct the problem before the next step.
1. Share – Students sit side by side, not across from each other (this is important) and share their work with a partner and describe or discuss each feature.
* Model for your students how and what you expect them to share. This may seem like you are overdoing it, but it will pay off in the end. If you do not show students how to share explicitly, many will gloss over important details.
* If written work is included, have them read it out loud to their partner.
* The partner listens, then refers to the rubric to peer-assess.
1. Advise – Students ask for advice on how to make their work better.
* Make sure that students understand how to provide constructive feedback.
* Monitor this interaction and control any inappropriate comments
1. Revise – If students agree with the advice they receive, they revise their work accordingly.
* You may want to have them document their revisions with a different color pen so that you can be aware of their progression toward learning.
1. Switch roles and let the other student be the one to think, share, get advice and revise their work.

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