



Student Tasks:

- Move to pairs
- Complete the evidence selection activity or prompt
- Have two pairs square
- Large group share out

Online ThinkCERCA Modules:

- Choose activities for analysis and textual evidence.

Pair to Square

Students collaborate to find text evidence; pairs can join another pair to form a square for more discussion.

Approx. 10-15 minutes

Rationale/Research Base

Collaborating to identify evidence helps students build textual understanding as well as peer relationships.

Optimal Application Notes:

To maximize learning outcomes, use a specific prompt, list of questions, or graphic organizer. It is also beneficial to have students share with the larger group and encourage students to think critically together about their selection criteria.

Before:

- Pair students or allow students to choose a partner.
- Provide clear instructions about the activity and share the note-taking tool, reviewing each of the tasks you would like students to complete. Check for understanding.

During:

- Circulate the room to check on progress.
- Announce to students when they are halfway through the allotted time of the activity.
- If the assignment is more complex or includes a large portion of text, texts can be divided for the activity. Later pairs can team up with another pair to square! As a group of four, they can confer and compare evidence as well as find additional examples.

After:

- (Today) Each pair or group can share with the whole class one piece of evidence that they identified.
- (Today and Tomorrow) This activity can be used often when engaging with a text. Depending on the students, the same pairs could work together, or new pairs could be formed.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Have students locate 1-2 examples of textual evidence.
- Model the process of selection for students in a think-aloud.
- Provide an example before the pairs begin working together.
- Provide students with bilingual glossaries, alternate versions of the task, options for recording responses, etc.

Collaborating to Find Evidence

Strategy: Pair to Square

Instructions: When you've finished reading, you will work with a partner to identify evidence from the text. Once you and your partner have completed your search, you will pair with another pair to form a square and discuss your findings together. Write down your notes from each discussion.

Notes and reflections from **pair** discussion:

Notes and reflections from **square** discussion: