Peer Instruction/Think-Pair-Share
BEST Phase 2 – Teaching

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Peer Instruction/Think-Pair-Share

• Provide a question, which students answer independently.
• Allow students to discuss the question for a few minutes, focusing on ruling out distractors and justifying the correct answer.
• Students answer the question a second time.

• Works well with clickers, because students can then earn (low-level) points for correct answers, and are motivated to engage in the discussion.
• The learning happens in the conversation – the clickers simply facilitate the conversations.
Types of questions

A. Those that require students to combine information from different portions of the course.

B. Those that require students to apply information from the course to everyday situations.

C. Those that push the students to go beyond what they have read or heard in lecture (to engage in critical thinking).
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Resources:

— “Turn to your neighbor: The official peer instruction blog”. https://blog.peerinstruction.net/

— Derek Bruff’s blog: http://derekbruff.org/?tag=peer-instruction
Some animals, such as ducks, have adapted an amazing method of sleeping about 8 hours a day without drowning or becoming prey. Scientists refer to this as *unihemispheric sleep*, where one brain hemisphere sleeps while the other remains awake. Imagine that you see a duck with her right eye open and left eye closed. What patterns of activity would you expect in this duck’s brain?

A. right hemisphere alpha waves; left hemisphere beta waves  
B. right hemisphere REM stage; left hemisphere delta waves  
C. right hemisphere theta waves; left hemisphere delta waves  
D. right hemisphere delta waves; left hemisphere beta waves  
E. right hemisphere beta waves; left hemisphere sleep spindles
Many people watch professional sports on television, sometimes for many hours a week. The theory of observational learning says that we can learn new behavior by observing model. If observational learning occurs, why can’t the average person learn to play sports at a professional level?

A. Because the evidence suggests that theory of observational learning is false – watching people do things doesn’t help us learn how to do them.

B. Because watching sports on television doesn’t meet the requirements for observational learning to occur.

C. Because observational learning only refers to relatively simple tasks, not to complex tasks like playing sports.

D. The average person can learn to perform sports at high levels (even at professional levels) – they are just not aware that they have that untapped potential.
Evolutionary Psychologists say that men generally prefer to mate with younger women because of the increased chances of healthy babies. In 2015, Mariah Carey turned 45, but her (then-)husband Nick Cannon was only 35, and you can probably think of other examples counter to the evolutionary psychologists argument. What does this say about the validity of evolution, and of efforts to explain psychological processes through evolutionary processes?

A. It provides evidence that evolution is false.
B. It says nothing about physical evolution, but suggests that human psychology is not affected by evolution.
C. It says nothing about the validity of evolution as an explanation for physical or psychological processes.
D. It is “the exception that proves the rule.”