# Plus-Minus-Interesting

### A Strategy to Foster Critical Thinking

Based on the work of Edward deBono, PMI is a strategy that helps students learn to:

• see both sides of an argument

• view things from a different point of view

• think broadly about an issue

• suspend judgement

• make informed decisions

• work as individuals, in pairs or as members of a group

This strategy can be used within a range of classroom activities such as analyzing texts or examining issues.

Individually, in pairs or small or large groups, students apply three questions to a statement or task provided by the teacher:

• What are the positive ideas about this?

• What are the negative ideas about this?

• What is interesting about this?

Students are provided with a format for recording:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Plus** | **Minus** | **Interesting** |
|  |  |  |

A recorder and reporter are appointed and within a specified time limit, students brainstorm their responses. At the end of the designated time, students report back on their most original/creative ideas from each of the categories.

It is useful to model the activity first, using a statement such as: “In the near future, global warming will lead to large-scale melting of the polar ice caps.”

***(Adapted from*** [***http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/english/PMI.htm***](http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/english/PMI.htm)***)***

**Adaptation: (Keep It, Junk It, Put It In the Cloud)**

PMI could be used for a summarizing/decision-making strategy whereby the students examine (individually, in small/large groups) the information and decide to **Keep It** (it’s important information), **Junk It** (it’s not important information), or **Put It In the Cloud** (set it aside to decide about later). It is similar to looking at the pros and cons of a topic with the added ability to suspend judgment until later.

A great critical thinking tool! A classroom poster is on the next page. Enjoy ☺



**Deciding what’s important**

**pmi**

**Put it in the cloud**

**to decide later!**

**Junk it!**

**Minus**

**In the cloud**

**Keep it!**

**Plus**