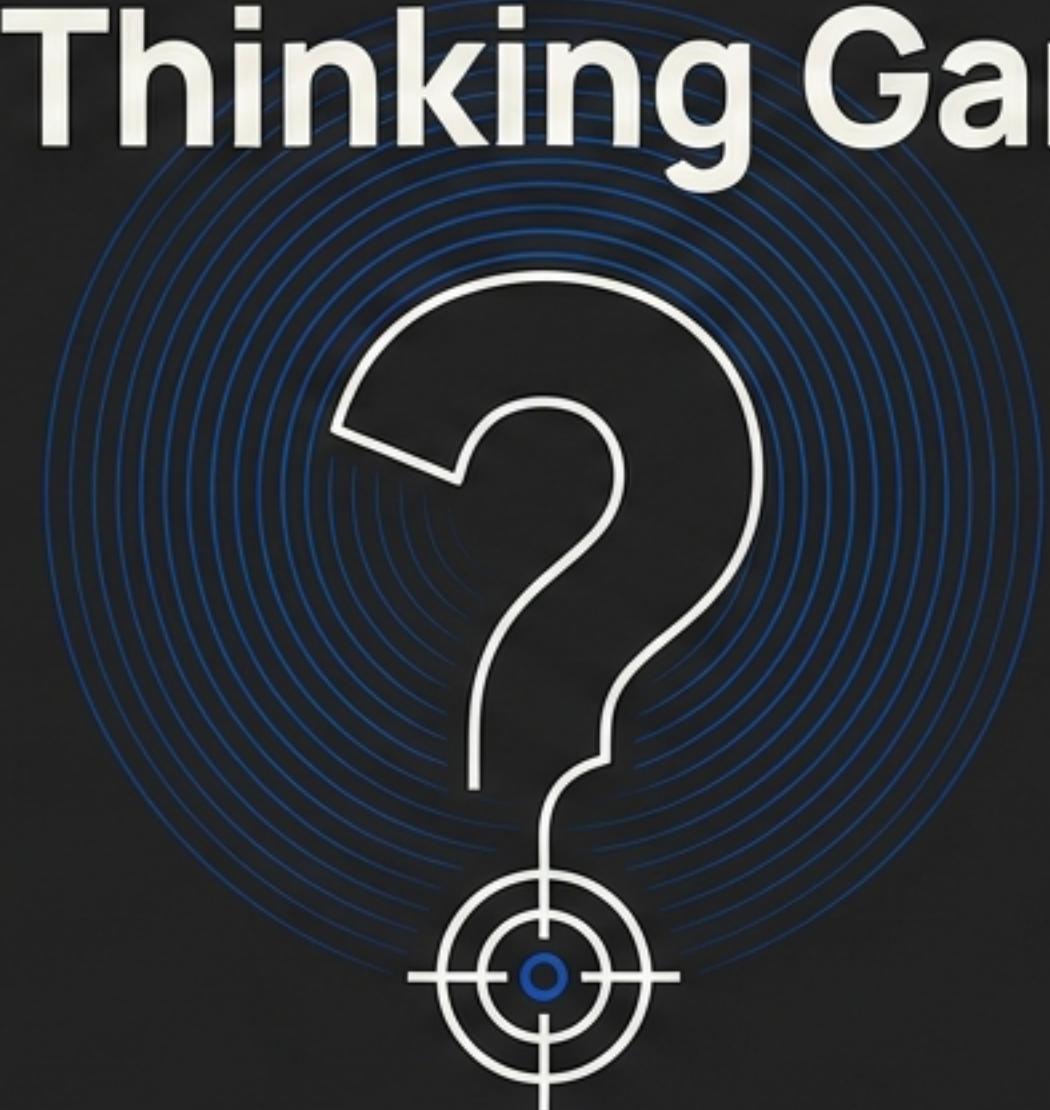


From Guessing Game to Thinking Game



A Practical Guide to Mastering the Pose-Pause-Pounce
Questioning Technique

A Simple, Powerful Three-Step Questioning Routine



1.

POSE

Pose the question to the entire class.



2.

PAUSE

Give everyone dedicated time to think.



3.

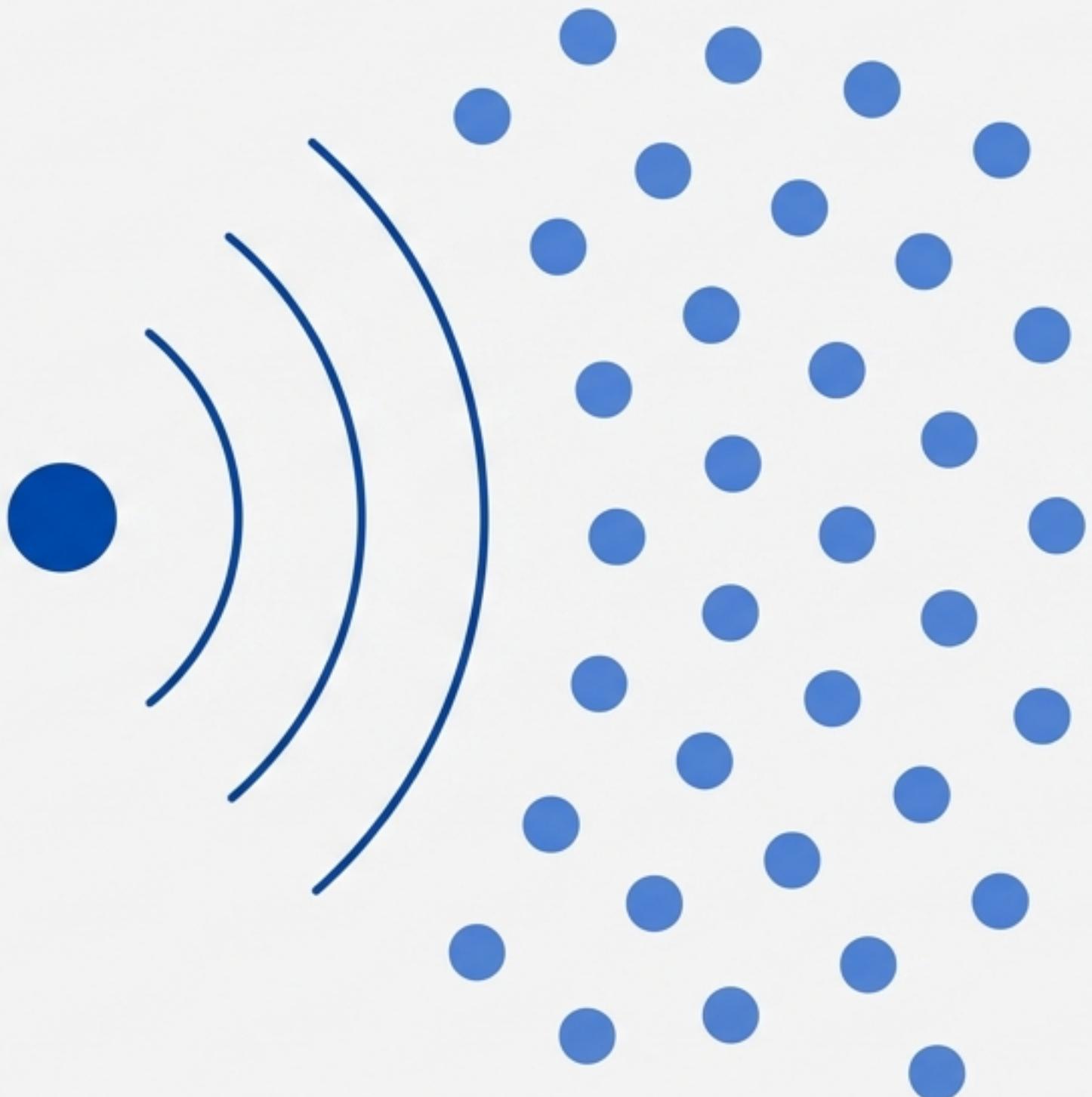
POUNCE

Select a pupil to answer *after* the pause.

Step 1: Pose the Question to Everyone

The routine begins by asking the whole class, not an individual. This signals that every single pupil is responsible for formulating an answer. It immediately broadens participation and sets the expectation for universal engagement.

No hands up.



Step 2: The Power of the Deliberate Pause

The ‘Pause’ is dedicated wait time. It is the essential ingredient that allows pupils to move beyond rushed, surface-level answers and engage in more complex thinking.

This is not empty time; it is active thinking time.



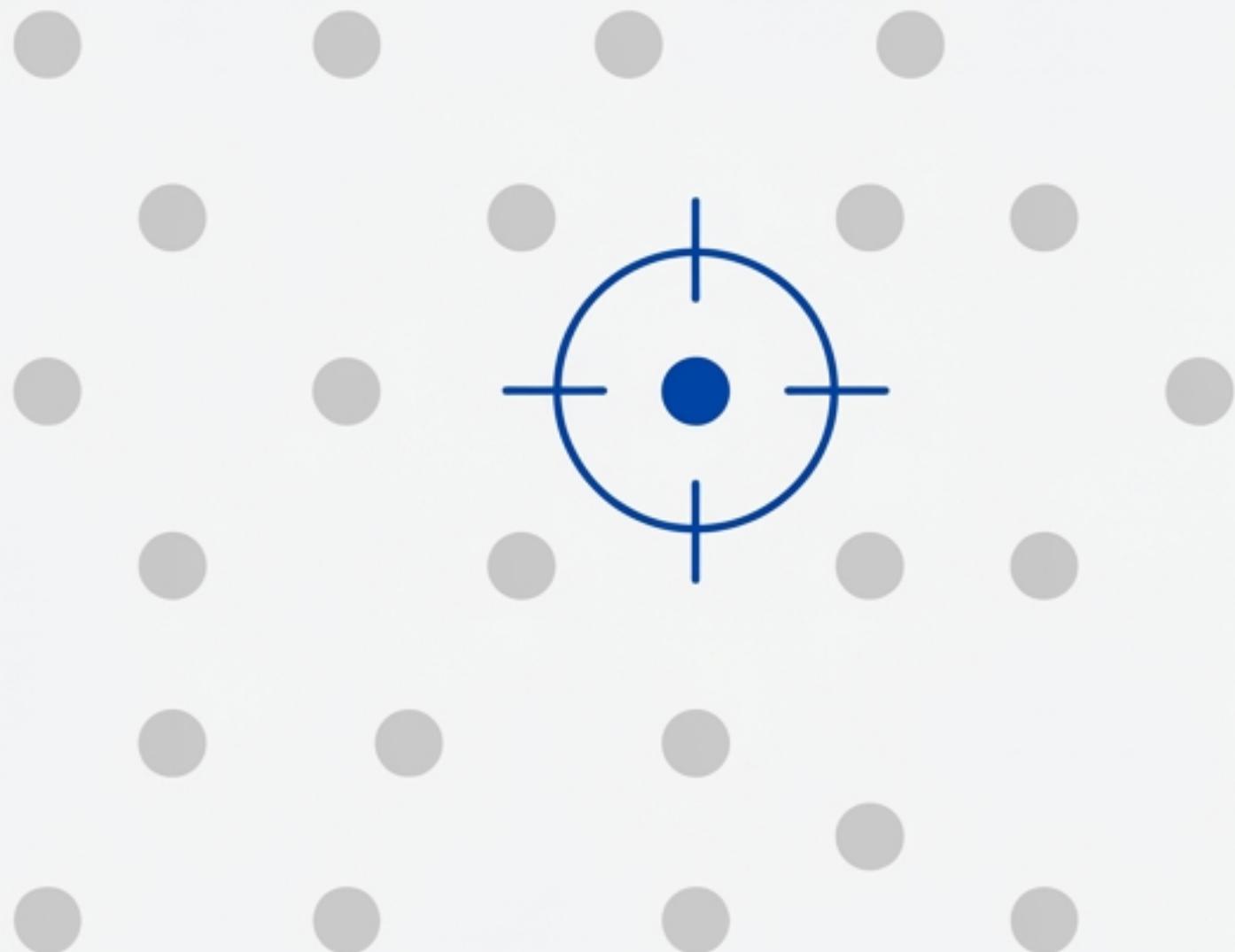
a minimum of
3-7 seconds

Step 3: Pounce with Purpose

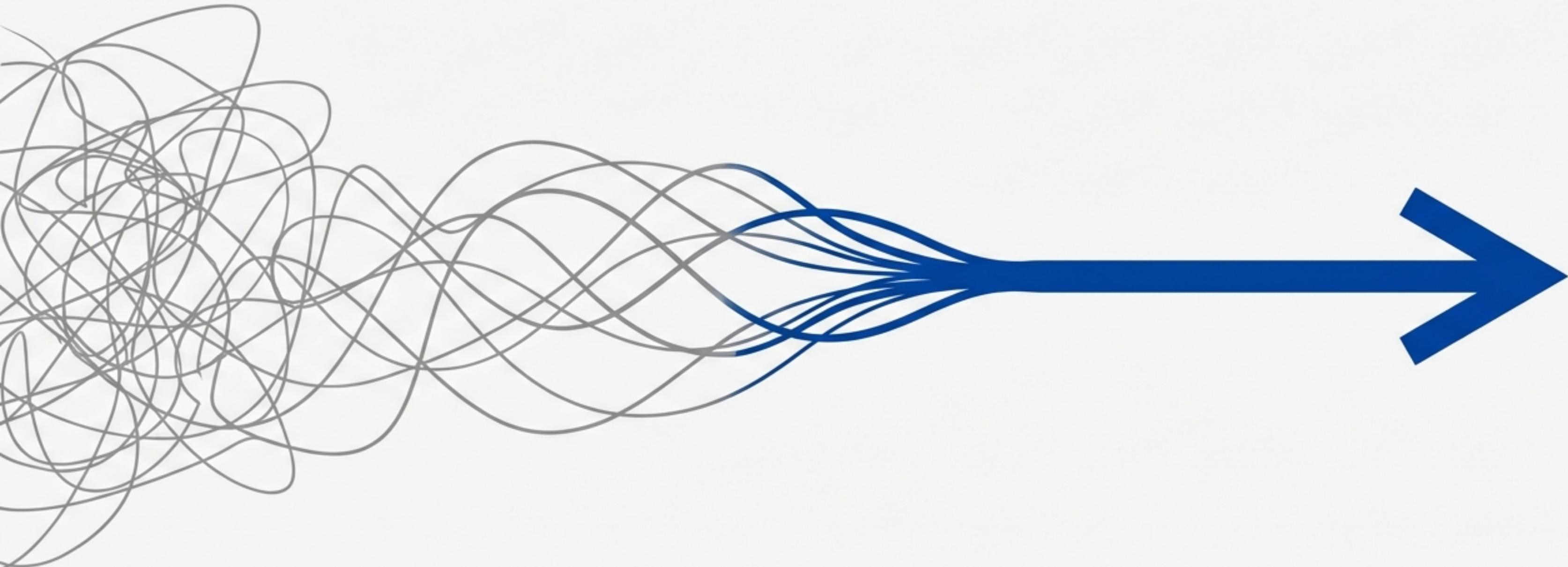
After the thinking time, the teacher deliberately selects a pupil to share their answer. This selection should be planned and targeted, ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to contribute over time.

Example: “Sam...”

The ‘Pounce’ is what makes the ‘Pause’ productive. Because any pupil might be called upon, everyone is incentivised to prepare an answer.



Why This Routine Transforms Classroom Discourse



By shifting from a hands-up, speed-based approach to a more deliberate and inclusive one, Pose-Pause-Pounce fundamentally changes the dynamics of classroom questioning. The following slides explore the three core benefits of this shift.

It Creates Time and Space for Deeper Thinking

The routine directly **improves thinking time.**

The mandated pause prevents pupils from rushing to the first answer that comes to mind. It provides the necessary cognitive space to process the question, retrieve information, and structure a more thoughtful response. This is the antidote to shallow, reflexive answers.

Rushed Answer



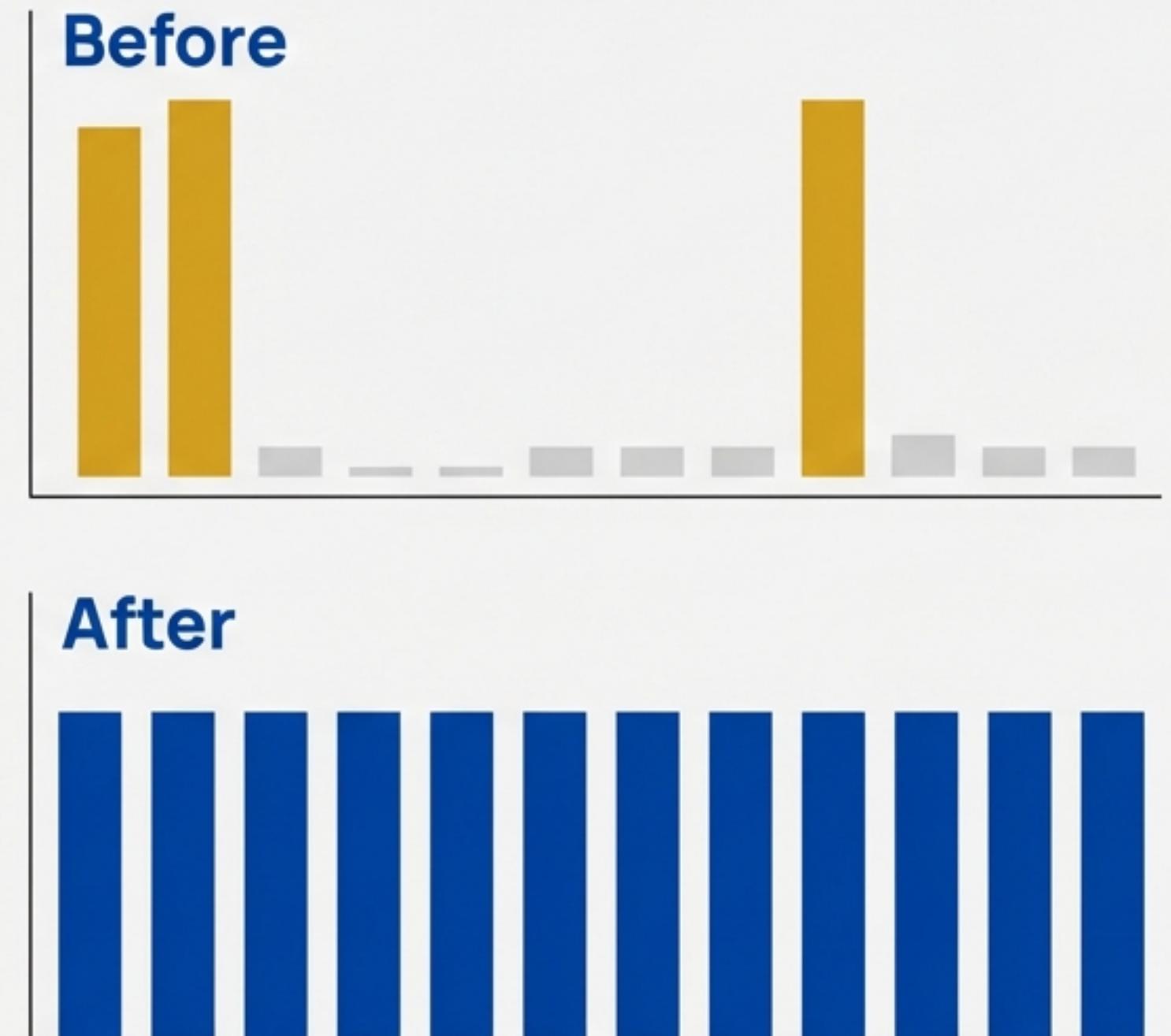
Considered Response



It Ensures Every Pupil is an Active Participant

The routine significantly **increases participation.**

When questions are posed to the whole class and selection is deliberate, the ‘hands-up’ culture dominated by a few confident pupils is replaced. Every pupil knows they may be asked to contribute, making participation a non-negotiable part of the lesson for everyone.



The Three Core Benefits of Pose-Pause-Pounce



Improves Thinking Time

Provides the crucial cognitive space for processing and reflection.

Increases Participation

Makes every pupil an active and accountable learner.

Reduces Rushed, Shallow Answers

Elevates the quality and depth of pupil responses.

Putting it into Practice: The Routine, Scripts, and Pitfalls

Understanding the concept is the first step.
Mastery comes from confident execution.
This section provides the step-by-step
process, ready-to-use language, and key
mistakes to avoid for successful
implementation.



The Full Classroom Routine, Step-by-Step

- 1. Pose:** Ask a question to the whole class.
- 2. Pause:** Wait for a minimum of 3-7 seconds. No hands.
- 3. Pounce:** Select a pupil to answer. (“Sam...”)
- 4. Follow-up:** Probe the answer for reasoning and evidence.



The **Follow-up** is essential. This is where you deepen the thinking, asking: ‘*Why?*’, ‘*How do you know?*’, or ‘*What’s the evidence?*’

Scripts to Frame the Process and Set Expectations

Use clear, consistent language to introduce the routine to your pupils.

I'm going to give everyone thinking time for this question. No hands up, please.

I will be pouncing randomly for the answer, so I expect everyone to prepare a response.



Scripts to Probe for Deeper Understanding

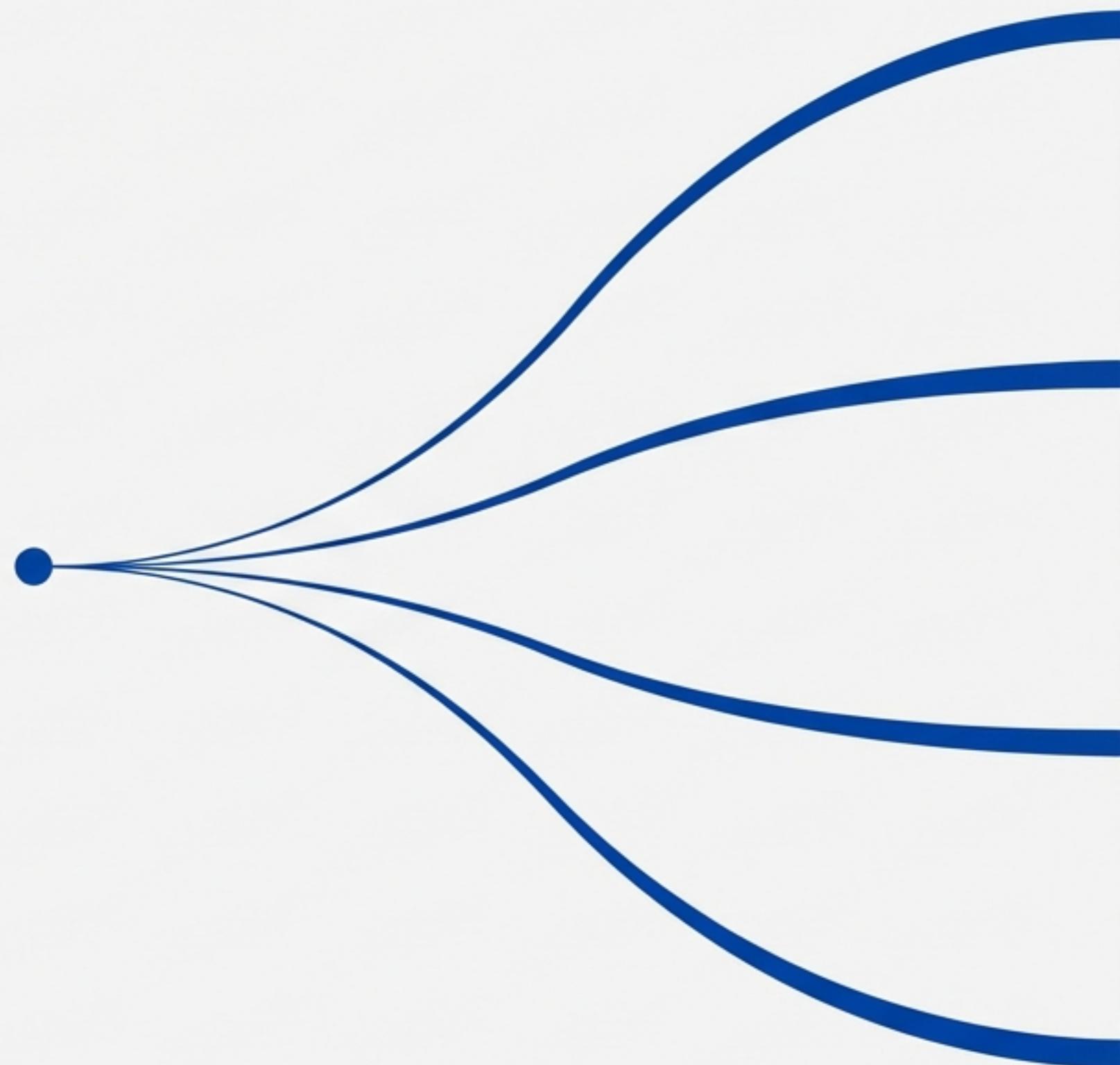
Once a pupil has answered, use simple, powerful prompts to encourage them to elaborate on their thinking.

Say more about that.

Convince me.

Where's the evidence for that in the text?

How do you know?



Mastering the Craft: Common Mistakes to Avoid



Common Mistake

Pause is too short

The teacher feels uncomfortable with silence and moves on too quickly, preventing genuine thinking.

No Probing

The teacher accepts the initial answer and moves on, missing the opportunity to deepen understanding.



Path to Mastery

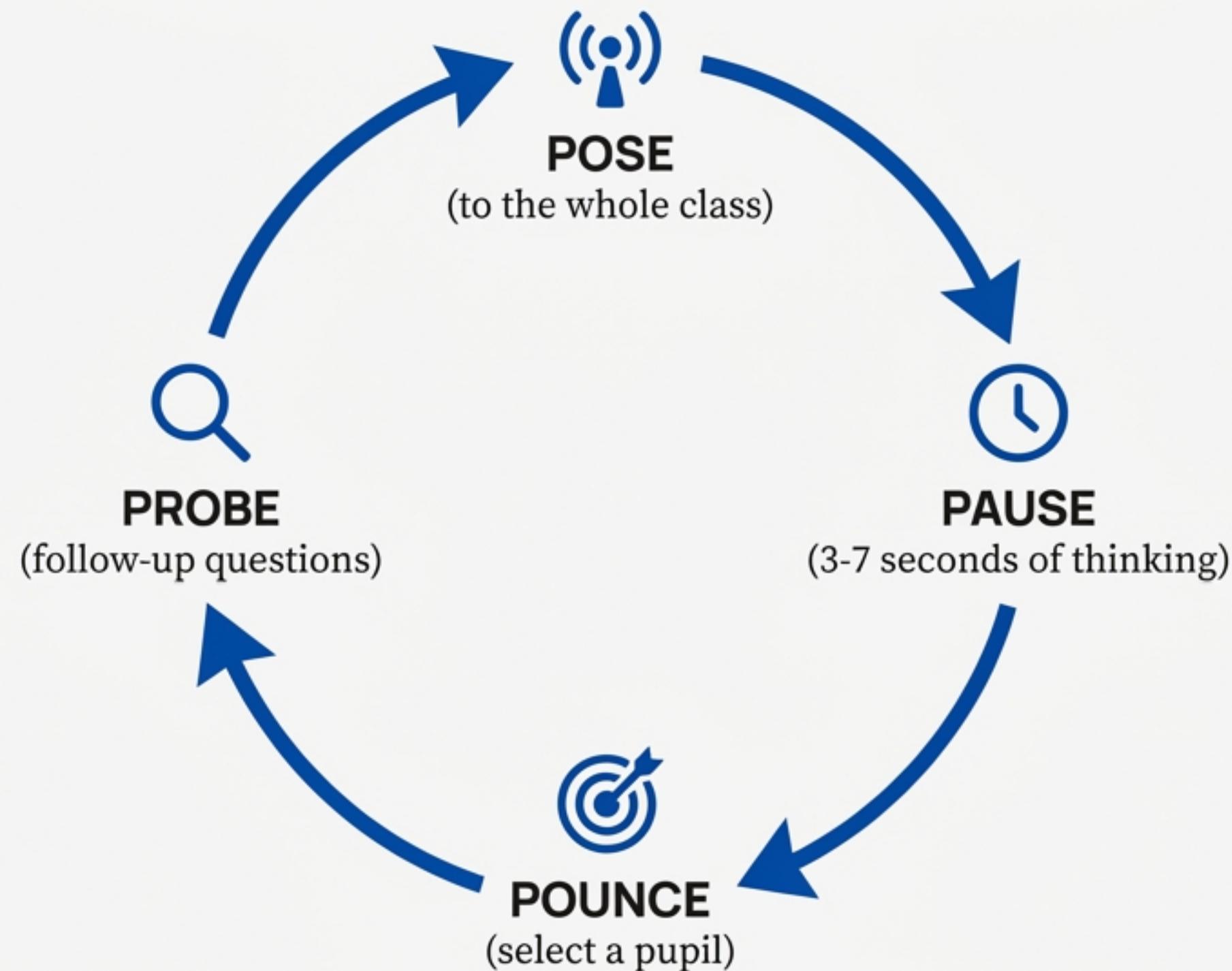
Commit to the Pause

Deliberately count 3–7 seconds. This time is for your pupils.

Always Follow Up

Make probing a habit. The first answer is the start of the conversation, not the end.

The Pose-Pause-Pounce Loop: A Cycle of Inquiry and Engagement



A simple, powerful tool to elevate every question you ask.