

Math Discussion Prompts



Promote mathematical discourse

As teachers, we know that engaging students in critical thinking and meaningful mathematical discourse provides students opportunities to:

- Self-evaluate to learn how to think mathematically
- Evaluate their processes and ways of solving math
- Identify how to connect mathematics to the world around them
- Learn how to infer, create, apply, and solve problems
- Engage in meaningful discourse with peers
- Learn how to seek out help - and recognize it's okay to do so

Math discourse prompts can be used in a variety of ways, including:

- Individual self-reflection prompts
- With a partner
- In small group discussions
- In whole-class review
- In-person classrooms
- Virtually in discussion boards, breakout rooms, audio recording reflections, and more.

Math Discussion Prompts

1 How did you start to think about solving this problem?

2 How did you reach your conclusion?

3 How is your method of solving the problem different from ____'s?

4 Is there another way to solve this problem? Explain.

5 How would you check your steps or your answer?

6 How did you organize the information in order to solve problem?

7 Did you have a different strategy from someone in your group? Explain.

8 Where else would this strategy be useful?

9 What ideas have we explored before that were useful in solving this problem?

10 What is one thing you've learned?

Math Discussion Prompts

11

How does today's learning connect to something we have already learned?

12

Is there another way to (draw, explain, say) that?

13

Write a word problem that could be solved using the math we are learning about.

14

What else would you like to know?

15

Would the method you used work with other problems? Explain.

16

Is there a real-life situation where this could be used? Explain.

17

How could you solve this using a visual such as a table or diagram?

18

Given the data, what patterns were identified?

19

Is there something from the word problem that can be eliminated?

20

Where else would this strategy be useful?

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