

Math Discourse Cards

Questions and Sentence Starters to Encourage
Peer and Whole Class Conversations

Math
Shouldn't
Be Quiet

Math Discourse Cards

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere

Did anyone get a **different answer**?

Reason, Explain, and Critique

Does your partner's strategy make **sense**?

These **questions** and **sentence starters** provide a way to engage all students in meaningful mathematical conversations.

Post the cards around the classroom or hand them out to help students initiate and deepen conversations with partners, small groups, or the whole class.

Reflect and Connect

What is **different** about your and your partner's strategies?

Sentence Starters

One thing I like about **my strategy** is ...

Using the Math Discourse Cards

These **questions** and **sentence starters** provide a way to engage all students in meaningful mathematical conversations. These cards will help students initiate, deepen, and extend conversations with partners, small groups, or the whole class.

Each card has two questions or sentence starters on it—one on the front and one on the back.

With each question, be sure to **have students explain their reasoning** for their response.

Some possible uses:

- Post the cards around the room and refer to them when solving problems as a class.
- Give each student a card to use during the whole class and small group discussion portion of Curriculum Associates' classroom routine or other discourse-based problem-solving routine.
- Choose a few cards for everyone in the class to focus on each week, based on the content of your lesson.

48

What
strategy did
you use?

2

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Do you **agree**
with the strategy,
answer, or
explanation?

Do you **disagree**
with the strategy,
answer, or
explanation?

**What question
do you have
for your partner
or the class?**

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48

How would
you **explain**
your strategy
to others?

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Can you **convince**
your partner or
others that your
answer makes sense?

**What do you
think about
what another
student said?**

Can you
explain another
student's
explanation?

48

Did you **work together?**
In what way?

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What would
you **add to what**
was said?

Did anyone
get a **different**
answer?

**Did everybody
get a fair chance
to talk or use the
manipulatives?**

48

How could you help another student **without telling them the answer?**

35

9

How would you explain how to solve this problem to someone who missed class today?

What is this
problem about?
What can you
tell me about it?

Is there something
in the problem that
can be **eliminated**
or that is **missing**?

48

Could you
explain what
the problem is
asking?

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What does
this problem
tell you?

Which words in
the problem are
most important?
Why?

Have you
tried making
a **guess**?

48

**What other
ideas have
you tried?**

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Would **another method** work as well or better?

Is there
another way to
draw, explain,
or say that?

What is
another **related**
problem?

48

Is there an
easier way to do
the problem?

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How would
you **explain**
what you know
right now?

Is this a
**reasonable
answer?**

Does your
partner's strategy
make **sense**?

Can you **draw a picture or make a model** to show how to solve the problem?

**How did
you get your
answer?**

Do you
want to **revise**
your strategy
or answer?

**How can
you be sure
your answer
is right?**

48

**How did you
begin to think
about this
problem?**

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What is
another way
you could solve
this problem?

How is **your strategy** different from or the same as another strategy?

Break the problem into parts. What would the parts be?

What part of another person's solution do you want them to **explain more specifically?**

Does that
strategy **always**
work?

Can you think
of a case in which
that strategy
wouldn't work?

How did you
organize your
information?
Your thinking?

Was your **group participation** appropriate and helpful?

Do you
see any
patterns?

Where could
you get more
information?

How would you
check your steps
or your answer?

48

**What did
not work?**

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How is your solution method **the same as or different from** another student's method?

Other than retracing your steps, **how can you determine** if your answers are appropriate?

How did you
organize the
information?

How could you solve this using **tables, lists, pictures, or diagrams?**

What ways have
you tried?
What **steps** did
you take?

How would your
solution look
if you used
another model?

How would you draw a **diagram or make a sketch** to solve the problem?

48

Is there
**another possible
answer?**

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Is there
another way
to solve the
problem?

Is there **another model** you could use to solve the problem?

Is there
anything you
may have
forgotten?

48

What was your
**estimate or
prediction?**

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**How did you
think about
the problem?**

How **confident**
are you in
your answer?

What else would you like to know about solving this problem?

Is the solution
reasonable,
considering the
context?

What
patterns do
you see?

What **picture**
could you draw
to show the
problem?

What
strategy did
you use?

Explain your partner's solution to them. Are there any steps you need to ask about?

What is the
relationship
between
____ and ____?

How is this problem
like one we solved
before? How is it
different?

What is the
same about your
and your partner's
strategies?

What is **different**
about your
and your partner's
strategies?

Which **skills**
or concepts
did you use?

What **ideas** did you use to solve this problem?

14

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Do you
see any
patterns?

**Where else
would this strategy
be useful?**

How does
this **relate**
to ____?

Is there a
general rule
you could use?

Is there a
real-life situation
in which this
could be used?

48

How would
your method
work with **other**
problems?

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What other
questions do
you have about
this topic?

What are
some things
you learned?

What
mathematics
topics did
you use?

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48

Did you **use**
any tools?
If so, describe
them.

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What were the
mathematical
ideas in this
problem?

What math did you use
in this problem that
was **different from
others** you have done?

Are there **any advantages** to using one strategy over another?

48

I started
solving the
problem by...

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The strategy
that **makes**
the most sense
to me is ...

A place where
I got stuck
was . . .

**I need help
understanding ...**

One thing
I like about **my**
strategy is ...

One thing
I like about
**my partner's
strategy** is ...

Something new
that **I learned**
today was ...

I still am
not sure
about...

I noticed
a connection
between ...

Something that
is **important** to
remember is ...

I was really
surprised
when ...

This is
similar to ...

3

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27

**I agree
with ...**

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**I disagree
with ...**