Mathematical Language Routines

Three Reads

What it is: A structured reading routine to ensure students know what they are asked to do.

Example: Read #1: What is this about.
Read #2: What is this asking me to do?
Read #3: What information do I have?

Compare & Connect

What it is: Compare and contrast different mathematical approaches, representations, examples, concepts, and language.

Example: Ask students to solve an open ended task. Then have students with different solutions share their work. Then ask class to reflect on similarities and differences.

Discussion Supports

What it is: A set of talk structures, routines, and moves for supporting participation and engagement.

Example: Structured sharing (A-B partner sharing); Teacher using discussion moves such as revoice, repeat, press, wait time; Group and individual accountability.

Co-Constructed Word Wall

What it is: A public display of words that will support a discussion. This can help students use academic language more naturally.

Example: Brainstorm terms related to a certain topic (e.g. interpreting graphs). Then post a list for discussion.

Acting It Out

What it is: Ask students to enact the story while introducing the problem, or at the conclusion when the problem is solved.

Example: Model a race with a headstart and show the difference (IRL) between a distance head start and a time-delay head start. Then connect to graphical representations.

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