

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Discourse

Discourse is the mathematical communication that occurs in a classroom. Effective discourse happens when students articulate their own ideas and seriously consider their peers' mathematical perspectives as a way to construct mathematical understandings. Encouraging students to construct their own mathematical understanding through discourse is an effective way to teach mathematics, especially since the role of the teacher has transformed from being a transmitter of knowledge to one who presents worthwhile and engaging mathematical tasks.

Professional Standards for Teaching Mathematics (NCTM 1991) identifies Communication, with discourse as a key component, as one of the six Standards for teaching mathematics. The questions below may stimulate your thinking.

- How do you choose tasks and/or questions that engage and challenge all students' thinking in your classroom? How do you ensure that these tasks remain at this level?
- How do you encourage your students to listen carefully to one another's ideas? To disagree? To question?
- How do the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics support your use of discourse in math class?
- How do you decide whether or not to pursue a mathematical idea? How do you decide when to give more information or let students grapple with their ideas?
- How do you help students clarify and justify their ideas?
- How does discourse encourage reasoning and sense making in your classroom?
- How do teacher-to-student conversations in your classroom become student-to-student conversations? How do you give more ownership of the classroom to students?

The Editorial Panel of *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* (*MTMS*) encourages readers to submit manuscripts concerning discourse. We especially invite responses from middle school classroom teachers who are incorporating action research into their practice to reflect on how discourse impacts students' learning and understanding.

Submit manuscripts by accessing **mtms.mtsubmit.net**. On the Keywords, Categories, Special Sections tab, select this specific call from the Departments/Calls section.

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mathematics teaching in the MIDDLE SCHOOL

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