Reasoning Talks:
Creating Number Talk Reasoning Structures for Grades 6–8

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Reasoning Talks can include such things as:
● Recognizing what is important about a problem
● (what kinds of things matter in the problem)
● Generating a possible solution pathway
● Developing questions about the problem presented
● Making connections between relationships
● Developing a conjecture
● (Provide a conjecture) consider a counter argument

Developing Reasoning Talks
Task: How does it relate to the standards?
Prompt: How do you want them to consider this?
The Math: What mathematics will be involved or be the focus?
Anticipating & Misconceptions: How might they be thinking?
Questions: What will you ask to probe for clarity?

Why Focus on Mathematical Reasoning?
“Mathematical reasoning comprises a major area of school mathematics that is crucial for students to learn but challenging for teachers to teach.”
● Students often rely too heavily on teachers, text books, or guess and check
● Use an algorithm without knowing how or why it is appropriate
● Begin and proceed with work without understanding
● Reasoning connects larger ideas and behaviors wanted in doing mathematics beyond current content

Successful Reasoning Talks
● Are well planned and developed
● Make connections to key concepts
● Press thinking through focused questions
● Occur regularly in the classroom
● Encourage clarity in language
To Learn More

Reasoning Talk Paper

Reasoning Talk NCTM Blog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Template</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developing Reasoning Talks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Task:</th>
<th>Goal:</th>
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<tr>
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<th>Questions: Probing &amp; Clarity</th>
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