

Oral Language Activities

Math Congress

This whole-class oral strategy enables students to focus on reasoning about a big mathematical idea derived from the thinking present in selected students' solutions.

Procedure:

1. Assemble students in a whole-group formation.
2. Post two or three strategically selected student solutions that demonstrate different ways to solve a problem.
3. Ask pairs/groups to present their solutions to the class and have students make comparisons between the solutions as they are presented.
4. Guide the discussion towards important mathematical ideas and strategies.
5. Pose questions such as: "How is this strategy similar to and different from the first solution presented? Will this solution always work? How do you know when it will not work? Why not?"