Talking & Writing in Math (part 1)

SMP #3 – Construct viable arguments & critique the reasoning of others

**Generating math talk**

**Climate**
Create a climate that is conducive to math talk. Think about the benefits of turn and talk instead of having students just raise their hands; room arrangement; wait time; and, emphasizing the thought process instead of just the correct answer.

**Opportunity**
The opportunity for students to participate in math discourse should be often and deliberate. Think about how to include these opportunities in whole-class discussions, teacher-led small groups, collaborative groups; and, student presentation/sharing.

**Productive Talk**
Students must learn ways to begin conversations, ask questions, and critique the reasoning of others. Think about posting discussion starters and discussing the tone of a person’s voice when they are speaking. Some possible discussion starters include:

- I agree with Steve because......
- That reminds me of .....  
- I would like to add ......
- I don’t understand ......
- I have a question about ......


"If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.”
~Albert Einstein

**Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math In Practice</th>
<th>Solve Me Puzzles</th>
<th>Splat!</th>
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