

Reflection Through Math Journal Writing

Wilcox, B. & Monroe E. E. (2011). Integrating writing and mathematics. *The Reading Teacher* 64(7). 521-529.

Kostos, K. & Shin, E. (2010). Using math journals to enhance second graders' communication of mathematical thinking. *Early Childhood Education* 38. 223-231.

Camahalan, F. M. G. & Young, K. M. (2015). Using math journals to encourage students to communicate their understanding of math concepts. *Journal of Teacher Action Research* 1(2). 38-52.

This targeted intervention provides a way for students to construct, reflect, and document their thinking about math concepts.

Materials:

- Teacher created Math Prompts using previously taught mathematical concepts.
Example of Math Prompt: "Sam wanted to give his five friends some cookies. If he gives each friend three cookies, how many cookies will he need?"
- Student Notebook
- Math Journal Writing Rubric

Steps:

1. The teacher and the student(s) read the math prompt together and the teacher paraphrases the problem.
2. The teacher models a variety of math strategies to solve the word problem and how to write a step-by-step explanation of what was done using math vocabulary.
3. The teacher provides guided practice using steps 1 and 2.
4. The student(s) are given a math prompt and asked to solve the problem and explain how they got their answer in their notebook.
5. The teacher provides feedback to the student using the Rubric.