

Mathematics Question Stems

Help students work together to make sense of mathematics:

"Who agrees? Disagrees? Who will explain why or why not?"

"Who has the same answer but a different way to explain it?"

"Who has a different answer? What is your answer and how did you get it?"

"Please ask the rest of the class that question."

"Explain to your partner your understanding of what was just said."

"Convince us that makes sense."

Help students learn to reason mathematically:

"Does that always work? Why or why not?"

"Is that true for all cases? Explain."

"What is a counter example for this solution?"

"How could you prove that?"

"What assumptions are you making?"

Help students learn to conjecture, invent, and solve problems:

"What would happen if....? What if not?"

"Do you see a pattern? Explain."

"What about the last one?"

"How did you think about the problem?"

"What decision do you think he/she should make?"

"What is alike and what is different about your method of solution?"

Help students connect mathematics, its ideas and its applications:

"How does this relate to...?"

"What ideas that we have learned before were useful in solving this problem?"

"What problem have we solved that is similar to this one?"

"How are they the same? How are they different?"

"What uses of mathematics did you find in the newspaper last night?"

"What example can you give me for...?"