

High School Math Talks 101 - Getting Started

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Math Talk Structure

- About 10 minutes
- Question or situation that is open-ended or has multiple solution pathways
- Students share ideas aloud to the class
- Teacher scribes students' ideas on board objectively

Types

- Dot Talks
- Which One Doesn't Belong (WODB) Talks
- Number Talks
- Pattern Talks
- Content Talks

Planning

When planning a math talk, consider the following questions.

- What strategies will students use?
- How will you record each of these strategies?
- What questions might you ask to fully understand student thinking and/or method?
- After the math talk remember to reflect - How did it go? What should you do next?

Resources for planning and implementing math talks in high school

- www.visualpatterns.org - Contains many pictures for pattern talks
- Wodb.ca - Contains many Which One Doesn't Belong talks
- Numberstrings.com - Contains number strings for number talks and posts from other educators with resources and tips
- MathTalks.net - Contains many number and pattern talks along with sample student responses
- *Making Number Talks Matter: Developing Mathematical Practices and Deepening Understanding, Grades 4-10* by Cathy Humphreys and Ruth Parker - A great book to read if you are looking for an overview of math talks and their benefits and background