

Free resource

Teacher questions and sentence starters

Try these questions and sentence starters to encourage classroom participation and elicit deeper thinking during math discussions.

Purpose	Teacher questions	Sentence starters
Describe thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did you begin to solve the problem? What steps did you take? Did anyone solve the problem in a different way? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I started by. . .</i> <i>First I. . . Next I. . . Lastly I. . .</i> <i>I used a different strategy, where I. . .</i>
Deepen thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you know your answer is reasonable? How can you check your answer? How is your approach different from your classmate's approach? How are they similar? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I know my answer is reasonable because. . .</i> <i>I can check my answer by. . .</i> <i>Our approaches are similar/different because. . .</i>
Critique reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you explain [student]'s reasoning in your own words? Do you agree or disagree? Why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Can you explain. . .</i> <i>I wonder how you did. . .</i> <i>Did you consider. . .</i> <i>I agree because. . .</i> <i>I respectfully disagree because. . .</i>
Clarify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who can explain what [student] said? Is that always true? Why or why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>[Student] said. . .</i> <i>It is/is not always true because. . .</i>

For more downloadable resources and lessons, visit [hmhco.com/free-resources](https://www.hmhco.com/free-resources)