

Sentence Frames Mathematics

This resource provides sample sentence frames that help students describe, explain, justify, and discuss mathematical ideas. Teachers, coaches, and leaders can use it to support planning, classroom discourse, and professional learning. The frames are intended as flexible supports to increase participation and help all students express their thinking more clearly in mathematics.

Sample Sentence Frames to Support Student Talk

Categories	Sentence Stems
Describe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It looks like... • I notice that... • I wonder if... • Let's try... • A quantity that varies is _____. • What do you notice? • What other details are important?
Explain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, I _____ because... • Then/Next, I... • I noticed _____ so I... • I tried _____ and what happened was... • How did you get...? • What else could we do?
Justify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know _____ because... • I predict _____ because... • If _____ then _____ because... • Why did you...? • How do you know...? • Can you give me an example?
Generalize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ reminds me of _____ because... • _____ will always _____ because... • _____ will never _____ because... • Is it always true that...? • Is _____ a special case?
Critique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That could/couldn't be true because... • This method works/doesn't work because... • We can agree that... • _____'s idea reminds me of... • Another strategy would be _____ because... • Is there another way to say/do...?

Categories	Sentence Stems
Compare and Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both _____ and _____ are alike because... • _____ and _____ are different because... • One thing that is the same is... • One thing that is different is... • How are _____ and _____ different? • What do _____ and _____ have in common?
Represent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ represents _____. • _____ stands for _____. • _____ corresponds to _____. • Another way to show _____ is... • How else could we show this?
Interpret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are trying to... • We will need to know... • We already know... • It looks like _____ represents... • Another way to look at it is... • What does this part of _____ mean? • Where does _____ show...?