



Math Discourse Activities: Grades 6–8

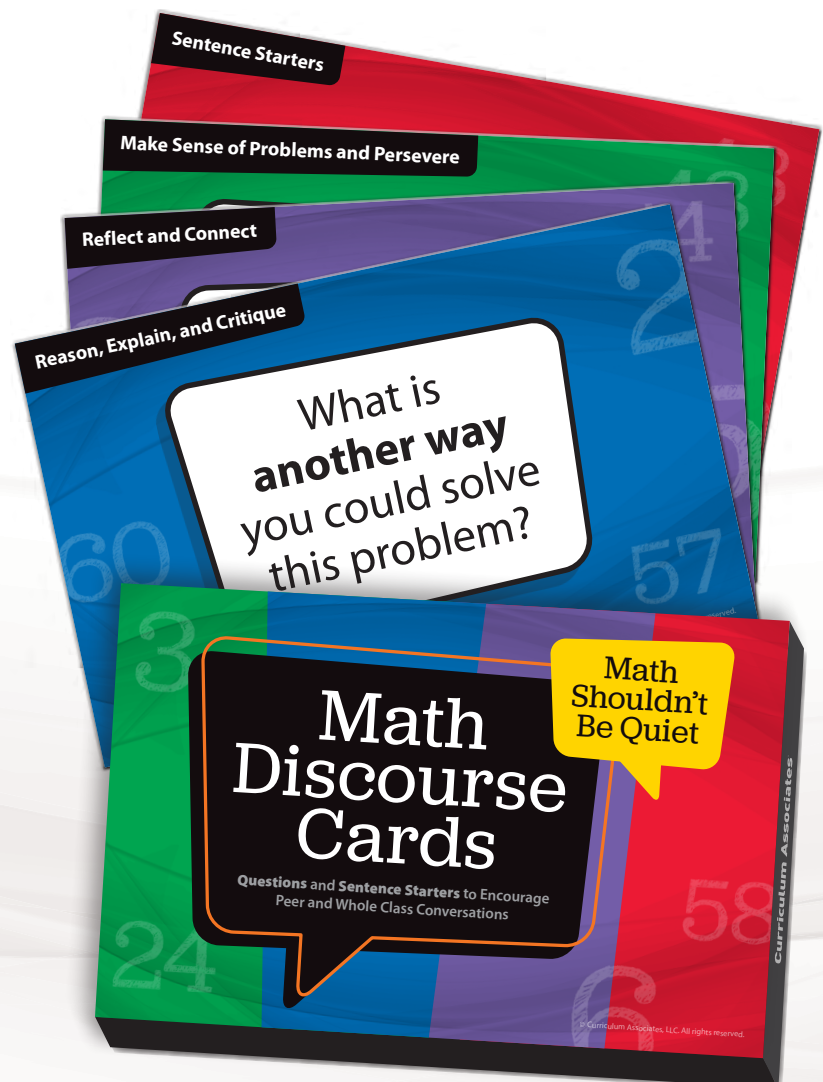
Get Your Students Talking in Math Class!

Students love to talk, so let's put that to good use during math class. Engaging in mathematical discourse helps students better process, synthesize, and retain ideas leading to greater understanding.

The Math Discourse Cards in *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* can be used to help students ask questions, share solution strategies, and make connections. This packet contains a sample activity for Grades 6–8 that can be used with the *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* Discourse Cards.

Table of Contents

Grade 6	8
Grade 7	9
Grade 8	10



Set Up

Provide access to manipulatives, visual models, and paper/pencil.

Activity

- Pose the problem:
 - *Dawn earned \$97.50 for 10 hours of work. Amy earned \$120 for 12 hours of work. How much did each person earn per hour? How can you use this information to compare their earnings?*
- Allow time for children to make sense of the problem and solve using manipulatives, models, and/or paper provided.
- Introduce the purple Discourse Card and invite a few students to share.
- Follow up some answers with the blue Discourse Card.
- After a few children have shared, introduce the red Discourse Card. Ask students to use the sentence stem to share their thoughts.
- Last, pose the green Discourse Card and continue the conversation.

Discourse Card Examples

Reflect and Connect

What is **different** about your and your partner's strategies?

Reason, Explain, and Critique

How did you **begin** to think about this problem?

Sentence Starters

The strategy that **makes the most sense** to me is...

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere

Can you **convince your partner or others** that your answer makes sense?

Set Up

Provide access to manipulatives, visual models, and paper/pencil.

Activity

- Pose the problem:
 - *Banners at the school store were on sale for \$3 off the regular price. Louis bought 4 banners on sale and paid a total of \$18. What is the regular price of a banner?*
- Allow time for children to make sense of the problem and solve using manipulatives, models, and/or paper provided.
- Introduce the purple Discourse Card and invite a few students to share.
- Follow up some answers with the blue Discourse Card.
- After a few children have shared, introduce the red Discourse Card. Ask students to use the sentence stem to share their thoughts.
- Last, pose the green Discourse Card and continue the conversation.

Discourse Card Examples

Reflect and Connect

Is there a **general rule** you could use?

Reason, Explain, and Critique

Can you **draw a picture or make a model** to show how to solve the problem?

Sentence Starters

The strategy that **makes the most sense** to me is...

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere

Can you **convince your partner or others** that your answer makes sense?

Set Up

Provide access to manipulatives, visual models, and paper/pencil.

Activity

- Pose the problem:
 - Roy wants to buy a new wireless phone for \$200. Two stores offer different payment options. Which plan has a greater initial value? Which phone will be paid for at a faster rate?



Store B Payment Plan

Pay \$50 at the time of purchase. Pay \$20 per week until the phone is paid for.

- Allow time for children to make sense of the problem and solve using manipulatives, models, and/or paper provided.
- Introduce the purple Discourse Card and invite a few students to share.
- Follow up some answers with the blue Discourse Card.
- After a few children have shared, introduce the red Discourse Card. Ask students to use the sentence stem to share their thoughts.
- Last, pose the green Discourse Card and continue the conversation.

Discourse Card Examples

Reflect and Connect

What is **different** about your and your partner's strategies?

Reason, Explain, and Critique

Does that strategy **always work**?

Sentence Starters

The strategy that **makes the most sense** to me is...

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere

How could you help another student **without telling them the answer**?