

Math Back Pocket Questions

This set of back pocket questions can help encourage more collaborative conversations within groups. Leave this card with a suggested question, or make individual cards and drop them off and ask students to respond. Back Pocket questions are a great way to get a stalled conversation started or encourage students to take their discussion in a new direction.

1. How have you used this in real life?
2. Show another way to answer the problem.
3. Explain WHY you solved it that way.
4. Why did that work or not work?
5. Is your answer reasonable?
6. What tools and resources did you use?
7. What would happen if...
8. Explain this to a skeptic.
9. For what other problems will your reasoning work?
10. Give an example of another problem like this.
11. Draw a representation.
12. What do you already know about this problem that can help you solve it?
13. What do you know is a wrong answer? Limit the range of wrong answers.
14. Come up with two or three common incorrect answers.
15. Give a non-example/counterexample.
16. Will that always work? Prove it.
17. What's right about this?
18. What's wrong about this?
19. How can you rephrase this?
20. Show how you can connect the different ways to do this problem.
21. How can you check your answer?