



# Math Tidbits

Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Framework  
Maryland School for the Deaf

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Dear Teachers,

This issue is dedicated to writing in math. The 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice call for better communication skills in mathematics. Students need to be able to explain their thinking and justify their answers as well.

Many of you have set up centers for daily instruction, with one of them focusing on Math Writing. I have included some ideas of independent writing activities that you can incorporate at those centers. On the last page, there are some links to websites full of resources about Math Writing.

Best of all, you have each other. Be sure to share your ideas, and ask to see other teacher's ideas. You never know, the teacher next door might have just what you've been looking for!

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## Ideas for Math Writing Center Activities Kindergarten—2nd Grade

Be sure to model, practice together before assigning these writing activities independently.

1. Have students make their own flashcards for vocabulary using their own definitions and pictures.
2. Use vocabulary to write sentences. For example: "My glass of water is equal to yours."
3. Make a counting journal. Cut out and paste pictures of objects to match each number—one number per day.
4. Have students draw pictures of what a math word means to them.
5. Assign one number, and have that student draw/write down every word they can think of associated with that number. (For example, "7" = lucky, 7-Up, etc.)
6. Use popular literature to ask math questions and have students draw their answers. For example, which animal was faster, the rabbit or tortoise?
7. Assign number sentences for the students to either draw or cut out pictures to make a visual representation of that number sentence.
8. Use cloze sentences with word banks for students to write in the appropriate math term (or number).
9. Create word problems, and have students copy the same word problems, but change either the numbers or key words.
10. Using the MyMath textbook, have students write down what their favorite problem was and why they enjoyed solving it.
11. Let students cut out a picture from a magazine or newspaper. Have that student write down all the "math" they see in that picture. For example, a soccer player might have bent legs, which look like angles.

## Ideas for Math Writing Center Activities 3rd—5th Grade

Be sure to model, practice together before assigning these writing activities independently.

1. Distribute blank comic pages with blank dialogue balloons, and have students write in dialogue showing a math problem.
2. Assign key words and key terms, have students create their own word problems and swap with another partner to solve.
3. Assign two numbers, and have that student make up a sentence using those two numbers at least three times.
4. Practice note-taking skills by having student write down what he/she learned in class and from the book.
5. Use creative writing techniques— make an acrostic poem about a math term or concept, for example.
6. Make up an advice column—where advice is sought about mathematics, and the student assumes the teacher's role.
7. Provide a list of random nouns and ask student to write a mini-story using these nouns and numbers.
8. Use cloze sentences with word banks for students to write in the appropriate math term (or number).
9. Create word problems, and have students copy same word problems, but change either numbers or key words.
10. Have the student write about his/her feelings (e.g., "I love math because... or "I learned in math class last week that...")
11. Make a mini-poster about a word problem that was solved together in class.

## Links to Resources about Writing in Math

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101 Writing Prompts for 3rd Grade

<http://myteacherpages.com/webpages/jgriffin/journal.cfm>

Notebooking—Pinterest

<http://pinterest.com/brobesson/math-notebooks-reasoning-problemsolving/>

Math Notebooking

<http://www.squidoo.com/math-notebooking>

Writing to Learn Math

<http://letsplaymath.net/2008/10/06/writing-to-learn-math-ii/>

Writing in Mathematics

<http://mathwire.com/writing/writing1.html>

Writing Across the Curriculum: NumberFix

<http://writingfix.com/wac/numberfix.htm>

The Daily 5 Café—Math Daily 5

<http://www.thedailycafe.com/public/main.cfm>

**Let's Play Math!**

<http://letsplaymath.net/2007/08/21/writing-to-learn-math/>

Math Journals

<http://www.calicocookie.com/mathjournal.html>