

TEACHING MATH TO MLs

Discussion Frames

Language Objective: I can talk about math concepts using academic language and discussion frames.

DISCUSSION FRAMES: HOW-TO

Before the Activity

1. Choose vocabulary words or phrases for the lesson.
2. Write a few sentences or questions you would like to hear students use during a discussion.
3. Remove key words or phrases to create discussion frames. These frames should allow students to practice using language just beyond their current level of proficiency.
4. Translate the discussion frames if needed.
5. Decide on student grouping structures (pairs, groups, same-language groups, etc.).

During the Activity

1. Model the use of the discussion frames for students.
2. Put students in groups or pairs.
3. Pose a question or topic that students will discuss.
4. Listen to students' discussions. Encourage all students to use academic language that they have learned in the lesson.

Extra Support for MLs

Translate frames if needed, but encourage students to use the English vocab they know.

Create different levels of frames. Students at lower levels of proficiency can use simpler sentences than students at high levels.

Example: Math 7

LT: I can find the absolute value of a rational number.

After students practice finding the absolute values of numbers on a number line, provide them with these sentence frames to help them discuss their work:

- The absolute value of ____ is ____ because...
- To find the absolute value of ____, I ____.

Helpful Links to Learn More

- [Math Discussion Frames posters in English and Spanish](#) from Carla Johnson
- [Supporting Mathematics Discourse](#) from "Interactive Stem"
- [Expanding Sentence Frames](#) by Jane Echevarria

