

Teacher and student actions

Mathematical discourse among students is central to meaningful learning of mathematics. Teachers carefully prepare and purposefully facilitate discourse, such as whole-class discussions that build on student thinking and guide the learning of the class in a productive disciplinary direction. Students are active members of the discourse community as they explain their reasoning and consider the mathematical explanations and strategies of their classmates. The actions listed in the table below provide some guidance on what teachers and students do as they engage in meaningful discourse in the mathematics classroom.

Facilitate meaningful mathematical discourse Teacher and student actions	
What are <i>teachers</i> doing?	What are <i>students</i> doing?
<p>Engaging students in purposeful sharing of mathematical ideas, reasoning, and approaches, using varied representations.</p> <p>Selecting and sequencing student approaches and solution strategies for whole-class analysis and discussion.</p> <p>Facilitating discourse among students by positioning them as authors of ideas, who explain and defend their approaches.</p> <p>Ensuring progress toward mathematical goals by making explicit connections to student approaches and reasoning.</p>	<p>Presenting and explaining ideas, reasoning, and representations to one another in pair, small-group, and whole-class discourse.</p> <p>Listening carefully to and critiquing the reasoning of peers, using examples to support or counterexamples to refute arguments.</p> <p>Seeking to understand the approaches used by peers by asking clarifying questions, trying out others' strategies, and describing the approaches used by others.</p> <p>Identifying how different approaches to solving a task are the same and how they are different.</p>