



Improve Your Questioning Skills to Formatively Assess Student Understanding

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Teacher Issues



- ▶ It is difficult to spontaneously come up with questions that will challenge students to make connections without simply telling them what to do.
- ▶ Classroom minutes are limited and mathematical discussions will use some of them.

Student Issues



- ▶ Students have been trained to believe that teachers only care about the answer to the problem, not how they thought about it.
- ▶ It takes time for students to adjust to explaining themselves and the idea of discussing the problem will seem foreign to them at first.

Questioning Scenarios

- The activity begins with teachers in groups of three taking the roles of teacher, student, or observer.
- The individuals playing the role of teacher and student each receive a slip of paper describing their scenario.
- The individual playing the role of observer waits to record all of the teacher's questions to the student.
- Once the activity begins, the teacher will talk to the student in the context of the scenario they read about on the slips of paper.

What did you get for the area of a square with a side length of 4 units?

16

Great. Do you have any questions?

No

What did you get for the area of a square with a side length of 4 units?

16

Great. How did you get your answer?

I added all the sides up and 4 plus 4 plus 4 plus 4 is 16.

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