



Course Overview

This course is part one of a two course series on Mastering Language for Career and College Readiness, focusing on Elementary Mathematics. The first course of the series delves into teaching students how to read and speak the language of mathematics.

The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics are notable for raising the rigor of student language demands during math instruction. Students are expected to understand complex problems, engage in constructive classroom conversations about math, and clearly support their reasoning with evidence.

In this course, teachers will be provided with a range of practical tools for gathering and analyzing language samples that show how students learn and what support they need in elementary math classrooms. These tools can support formative assessment and instructional planning. Focal topics include developing students' language for engaging in the eight Common Core mathematical practices, fostering constructive conversations, and communicating evidence and reasoning. This course will also enable teachers to collaborate with other educators and build professional relationships that result in an online community focused on improving students' abilities to use rich academic language to learn and show learning of mathematical skills and concepts.

While the course is intended specifically for those who teach English learners and students with disabilities, the content of this course is equally applicable to teaching all students who are challenged by the academic uses of language in math instruction.

Course Goals:

- Better understand the role and types of language in mathematics learning
- Become familiar with how Common Core Math Practices are involved in developing fluency in the language of math
- Learn how to assess students' uses of language in order to provide appropriate mathematics instruction
- Develop teacher practices and instructional activities that foster students' mathematical language in two areas: reading and speaking
- Collaborate with and learn from other mathematics educators to build an online community focused on language in math learning

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for you to connect your learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of your learning for your classroom practice.

Goals & Purpose

Session 1 – Reading the Language of Math

- Recognize the three features of language that students use to read in math
- Become familiar with how three Common Core Math Practices are involved in developing reading skills in the math classroom
- Identify activities that scaffold math text comprehension and skills in diverse math classrooms
- Formatively assess your students use of language to read, comprehend, and organize mathematical ideas in texts
- Form teams in order to collaborate and reflect on student reading in math with other educators.

Session 2 – Speaking the Language of Math

- Recognize four key features of sound reasoning in math
- Identify classroom activities that can foster oral language and mathematical reasoning
- Formatively assess student reasoning discourse to describe mathematical understanding.

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for teachers to connect their learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of that learning for classroom practice. Teachers will also be able to revisit their work and reflections by viewing their individual Course Portfolios.