

Mathematical Language Routines

Developing Students' Voices and Sense Making

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Let's get to know each other!

Who teaches or works with teachers...

- PK - 2?
- 3 - 5?
- 6 - 8?
- 9 - 12?
- Post secondary?

Why are you here?

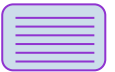
Learning Goals

- Understand that learning mathematics is a language-demanding activity for all students
- Understand how MLRs support mathematics sense-making and language development
- Engage in and prepare MLRs

Let's Do Math

A company claims that their new bottle holds 25% more laundry soap. If their original container held 53 fluid ounces of soap, how much does the new container hold?

Source: *Illustrative Mathematics 6-8 Math (Grade 7 Unit 4, Lesson 7, Cool Down)*



Handout 1



Language demands?

Prompts:

- How did you use language to engage in this task?
- How did you make your thinking visible?

A company claims that their new bottle holds 25% more laundry soap. If their original container held 53 fluid ounces of soap, how much does the new container hold?

Mathematical Language Demands

It matters for all students

READING

WRITING

REPRESENTING

CONVERSING

LISTENING

SPEAKING

(Adapted from Aguirre & Bunch, 2012)

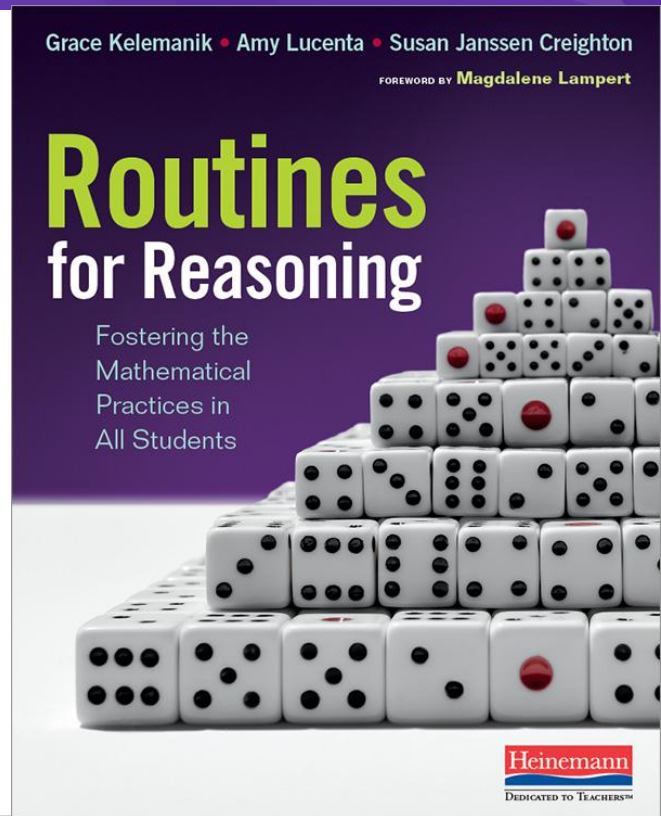
UL/SCALE: Mathematical Language Routines

1. Stronger and Clearer Each Time
2. Collect and Display
3. Clarify, Critique, Correct
4. Information Gap
5. Co-Craft Questions
6. Three Reads ★
7. Compare and Connect
8. Discussion Supports

MLRs are structured but adaptable formats for amplifying, assessing, and developing students' language.

What are instructional routines?

“Instructional routines are specific and repeatable designs for learning that support both the teacher and students in the classroom.”





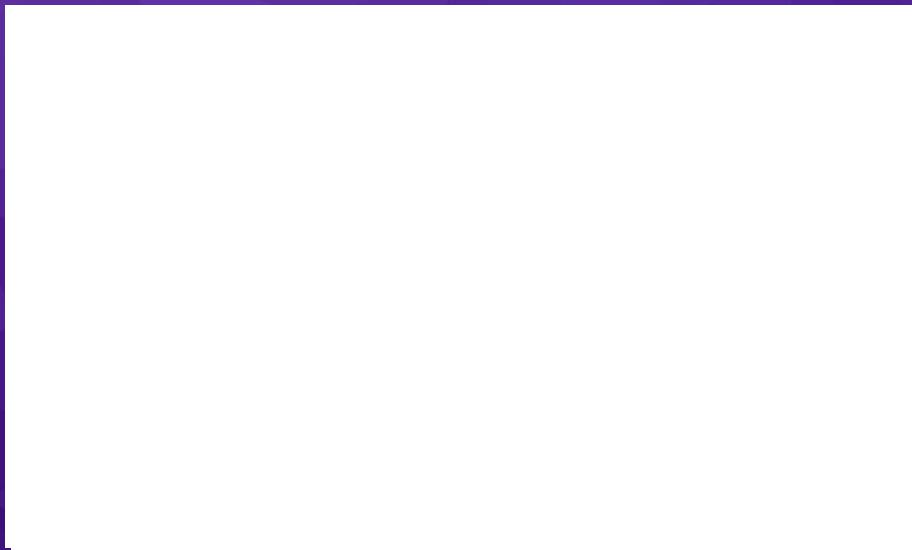
**Let's Do a Mathematical
Language Routine**

Mathematical Language Routine: Clarify, Critique, Correct

Incomplete Response

PROMPT partners to:

- **Clarify:** Describe what the author did
- **Critique:** Analyze the author's reasoning
- **Correct:** Improve the response



Handout 2

Clarify, Critique, Correct

Partners Clarify (1 minute)

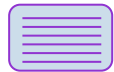
- “I notice ...” “What do you notice?”
- “I wonder...” “What do you wonder?”

Partners Critique (2 minutes)

- “This reasoning is strong because ...”
- “What might make this reasoning stronger is ...”

Individuals Correct (2 minutes)

- “I can build onto this response by ...”
- “What else could I do/show?”



Handout 2

Clarify

"We noticed ..."

"We wondered..."

We Noticed... Clarify

- Using percentages
- Double number line
- Didn't show work
- Filled out Double Number Line with a 25%
- Bottom line goes $\frac{4}{15}$
- Top line adding 25% each time

We wondered...

- How did they get 15 on the bottom?
- Why is 25% is before the 100% if it's 25% more?

Critique

"This reasoning is strong because ..."

"What might make this reasoning stronger is ..."

Critique

- I understand it ... it's going up by 25's and 15's

- The Double Number Line is easier because you can use both numbers

- We need how much is 25%

- $4 \overline{) 100}$ will help them find the original bottle of 60 ounces

This is to help get 25% because

- The bottom number line need the starting 0 ounces

We can finish this double number line because... we need to extend both lines 25% more (10 and ounces)

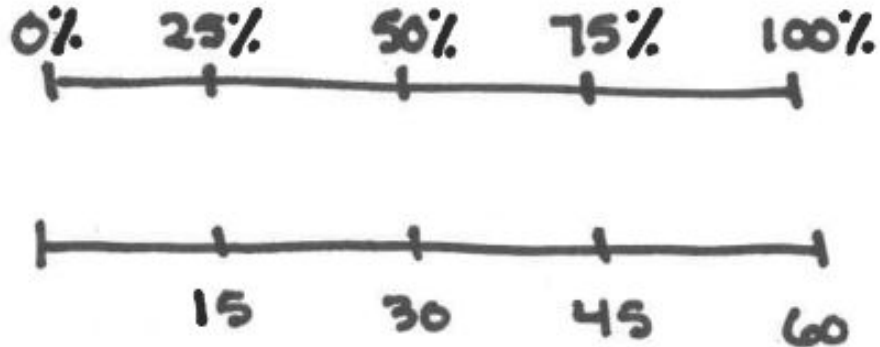
LUNCH!

Jun 11.23

Memorize cleanup room (card)

Initial Draft

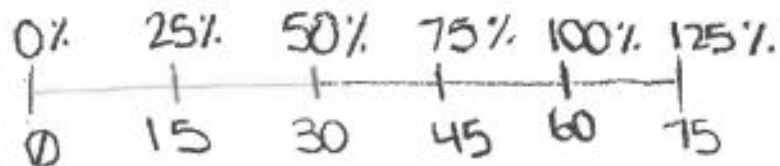
60 fluid ounces
+
25% more



$4 \sqrt{60}$
is

Revised Response

Show Your Improved Response Here



The new container contains 75 fluid oz.

100% 125%
60 + 15 = 75

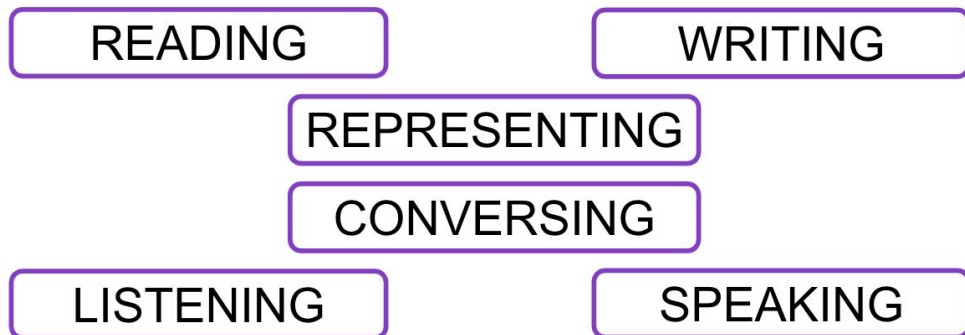
60 fluid ounces
+
25% more

$$\begin{array}{r} 100\% \text{ is } 60 \\ 25\% \text{ is } \underline{15} \\ 125\% \text{ is } 75 \end{array}$$

Unpack the Routine

How does “Clarify, Critique, Correct”

- support language demands of the task?
- support development of mathematical understanding?



Unpack the Routine

In this routine:

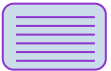
- What is the teacher doing?
- What are students doing?



Handout 3

Mathematical Language Routine: Clarify, Critique, Correct

Purpose: To give students a piece of mathematical writing that is not their own to analyze, reflect on, and develop. The intent is to prompt student reflection with an incorrect or incomplete written argument, and for students to improve upon the written work by clarifying thinking, offering critique and then correcting the initial response.



Handout 4

Clarify, Critique, Correct

1. **PRESENT** a partial or broken argument, explanation, or solution method.
2. **PROMPT** partners to:
 - Clarify:** the reasoning in the initial response
 - Critique:** Analyze the response in light of partner's own understanding of the problem
 - Correct:** Partners work collaboratively / individually to improve the initial response
3. **SHARE:** Partners share out their drafts of an improved response and refine as needed during whole group discussion.



Handout 4

A Partnership



Design Principles

*To Promote
Mathematical Language
Use and Development
in Curriculum and
Instruction*

1. Support sense-making
2. Optimize output
3. Cultivate conversation ★
4. Maximize linguistic and cognitive meta-awareness

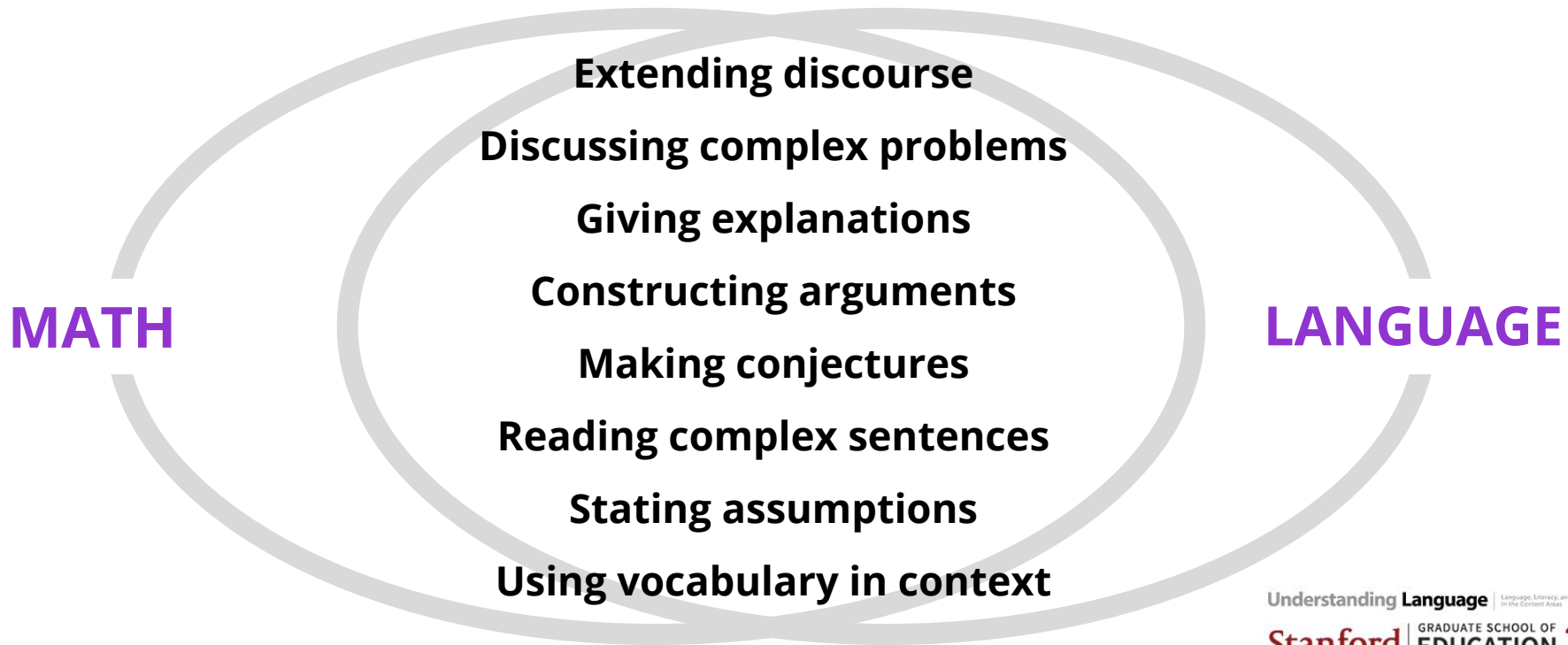
Connecting to the UL/SCALE Guiding Principles

Principle 3 CULTIVATE CONVERSATION: Strengthen the opportunities and supports for constructive mathematical conversations (pairs, groups, and whole class).

Conversations are back-and-forth interactions with multiple turns that build up ideas about math. Conversations act as scaffolds for students developing mathematical language because they provide opportunities to simultaneously make meaning and communicate that meaning (Mercer & Howe, 2012; Zwiers, 2011). They also allow students to hear how other students express their understandings. When students have a reason or purpose to talk and listen to each other, interactive communication is more authentic. For example, when there is an “information gap,” in which students need or want to share their thoughts (which are not the same), students have a reason or purpose in talking and listening to each other.

During effective discussions, students pose and answer questions, clarify what is being asked and what is happening in a problem, build common understandings, and share experiences relevant to the topic. As mentioned in Principle 2, learners must be supported in their use of language, including within conversations, to make claims, justify claims with evidence, make conjectures, communicate reasoning, critique the reasoning of others, and engage in other mathematical practices – and above all, to make mistakes. Meaningful conversations depend on the teacher using lessons and activities as opportunities to build a classroom culture that motivates and values efforts to communicate.

Students are Engaged in Mathematical Language Development When...



Understanding Language | Language, Literacy, and Learning
in the Content Areas

Stanford | GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION 

Routines in the Mathematics Lessons Support Students'...

*Mathematical
Sense
Making*

*Mathematical
Language
Development*

Simultaneously

A Double Challenge for English Learners

“(The English learner must) learn how to effectively employ a new language in an academic setting, while learning through that language the knowledge and skills in multiple disciplines.”

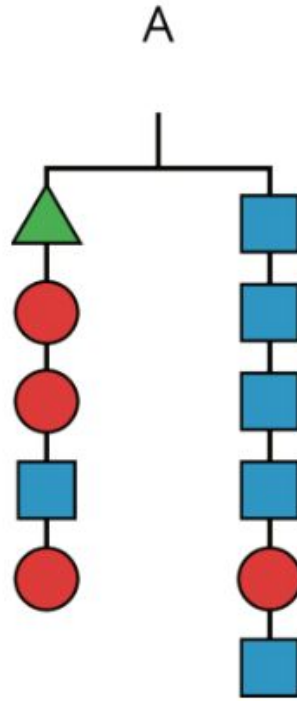
(UL/SCALE 2014)

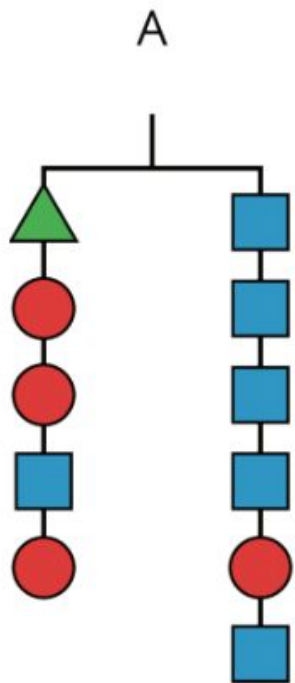


**Let's Do Another
Mathematical Language
Routine**



What do you notice? What do you wonder?





$$3 + 6 + 6 + 6 = 4x + 6$$

$$21 + x = 6 + 5x$$

$$x = 3.75$$

Pick 2 equations.
Describe how the two equations are related



What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Mathematical Routine: Stronger and Clearer Each Time

1. Pre-write
2. Think time
3. Pair share
4. Repeat with new partners
5. Revise pre-write

Mathematicians communicate their thinking in a many ways.
They borrow and use other's ideas and words to get....**Stronger and Clearer Each Time**

Los matemáticos comunican su pensamiento de muchas maneras.

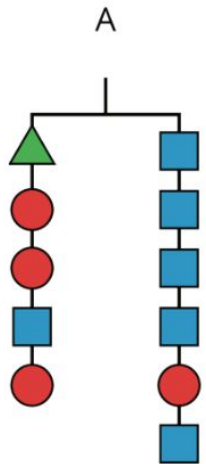
Piden prestado y usan ideas de otros para obtener ... Cada vez más fuertes y claros

Your Name:	Prompt: Pick two equations. <i>Escoge dos ecuaciones.</i> Describe how the two equations are related. <i>Describe cómo se relacionan las dos ecuaciones.</i>
Initial Thinking Include diagrams, number sentences, words, etc. <i>Pensamiento inicial</i> <i>Incluye diagramas, oraciones numéricas, palabras, etcétera.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Did it! ¡Lo hice!</i>	
Share #1 Write down 1 or 2 words before you switch partners <i>Compartir # 1</i> <i>Escribe 1 o 2 palabras antes de cambiar de pareja</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Did it! ¡Lo hice!</i>	
Share #2 Say "because" to justify your steps <i>Compartir # 2</i> <i>Di "porque" para justificar tus pasos</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Did it! ¡Lo hice!</i>	
New Thinking Remember... <i>stronger & clearer!</i> <i>Nuevo pensamiento</i> <i>Recuerda...</i> <i>más fuerte y más claro!</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Did it! ¡Lo hice!</i>	

1
2
3
4



Pick 2 equations. Describe how the two equations are related.



$$3 + 6 + 6 + 6 = 4x + 6$$

$$21 + x = 6 + 5x$$

$$x = 3.75$$

Initial Thinking
Include diagrams, number sentences, words, etc.

Pensamiento inicial
Incluye diagramas,
oraciones numéricas,
palabras, etcétera.

Did it! ¡Lo hice!

Se relacionan sumando 3 veces
6 para sumarlo el $(3 \times 6 + 6 + 6 = 4 \times 6)$
por que cuentas los números.
elena take triangles on the left
side

Share #1
Write down 1 or 2 words
before you switch partners

Compartir # 1
Escriba 1 o 2 palabras antes
de cambiar de pareja
 Did it! ¡Lo hice!

la ecuacion es la misma que
la otra.

Share #2
Say "because" to justify your
steps

Compartir # 2
Di "porque" para justificar
tus pasos
 Did it! ¡Lo hice!

por que unos son iguales

Revised Response

How are the equations related?

Why does this make sense?

Because las dos ecuaciones

son los mismo Cada vez que

lo sumamos. They are related

because you can use both of

them to solve a problem. They are equivalent

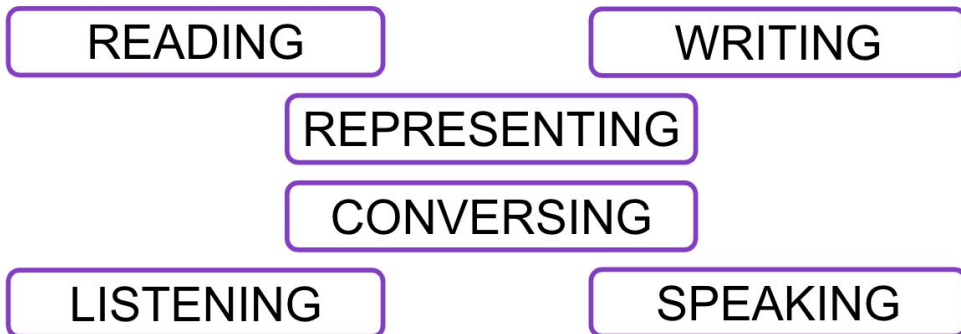
because the two pentagons

they have the same

Unpack the Routine

How does “Stronger and Clearer Each Time”

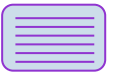
- support language demands of the task?
- support development of mathematical understanding?



Unpack the Routine

In this routine:

- What is the teacher doing?
- What are students doing?



Handout 3

Mathematical Language Routine: Stronger and Clearer Each Time

Purpose: To provide a structured and interactive opportunity for students to revise and refine both their ideas and their verbal and written output (Zwiers, 2014). Pairs borrow and use the language, ideas, and justifications each time. Responses become:

- Stronger (often longer) with better justifications and examples,
- Clearer with more precise terms and linked, organized, complete sentences.



Handout 6

Language Routines in General

After experiencing both routines:

- How is learning mathematics a language demanding activity for all students?
- How do these routines support mathematical sense making and language development simultaneously?
- How do these routines empower students?

Let's Prepare a Mathematical Language Routine

Implementing Mathematical Language Routines

Which of these routines will I try with my students?

- 3 Reads
- Clarify, Critique, Correct
- Stronger and Clearer Each Time

I want to try ___ because...



Handout 7

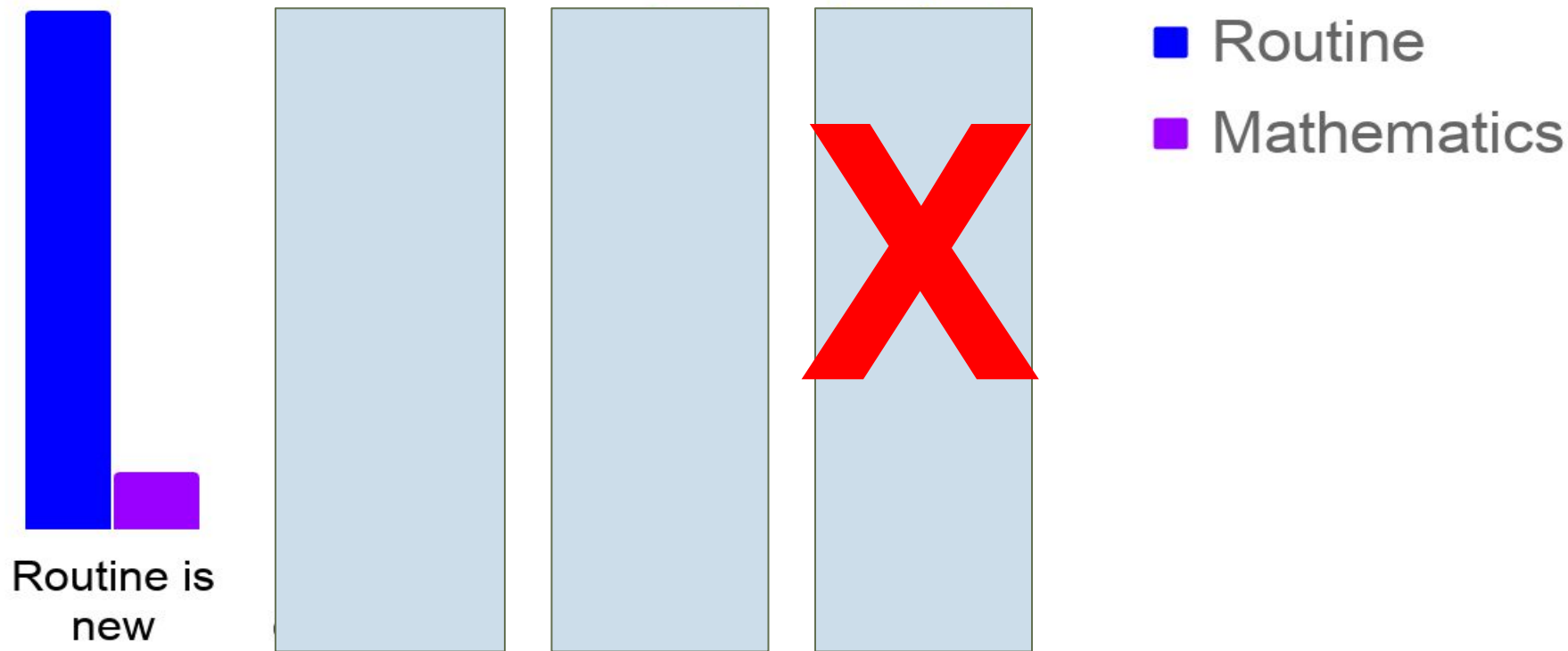
Implementing Mathematical Language Routines

As you prepare to develop your own students' voices and sense making, what are some things you might consider as you prepare to facilitate the routine with your students?



Handout 7

Consider Students' (and your) Cognitive Load



UL/SCALE: Mathematical Language Routines

1. Stronger and Clearer Each Time ★
2. Collect and Display
3. Clarify, Critique, Correct ★
4. Information Gap
5. Co-Craft Questions
6. Three Reads ★
7. Compare and Connect
8. Discussion Supports ★

MLRs are structured but adaptable formats for amplifying, assessing, and developing students' language.

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Available

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Perfect Score

Rigor and Mathematical Practices

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THANK YOU

For Exploring Mathematical Language Routines

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