



MAKING MATH MOMENTS THAT MATTER

HOW TO START A MATH FIGHT



Key Idea:

It's not really about starting a fight, it's about creating controversy so students will take a position and defend it. Mathematical discourse is the key.

Having students regularly discuss, argue, defend, justify ideas using mathematics helps them understand the topic deeply.

The resources outlined here will help you create those controversial moments in your classroom.

ROUND 1

Head Bands

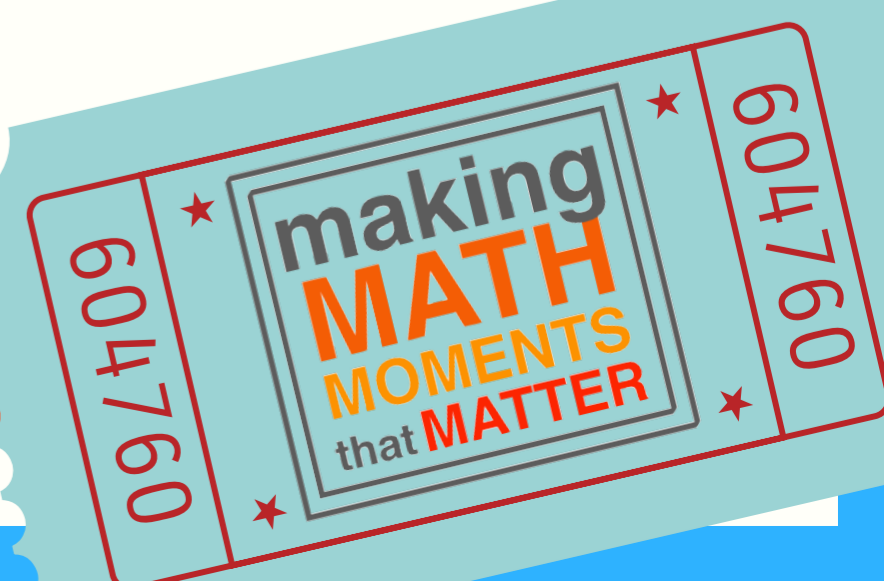
HOW

Students are given a card that they don't see. They place that card outwards on their head for the rest of class to see. They are to move about the room asking their peers yes or no questions to determine what "number" is on their card. I have had cards showing graphs of quadratic relations and students had to determine the equation that matched their graph.



FIGHT

The arguments will occur when students ask "narrowing down" questions and when answers from their peers start to conflict with what they already know about their number. They are forced to think critically about the key characteristics of the number.



ROUND 2

Would You Rather

HOW

Visit wouldyourathermath.com and choose a prompt to give to your class. Allow your class to work in pairs to come up with math evidence to support a choice.

FIGHT

Share different choices and solutions to the class.

Use the space below to support your choice in the prompt shown here.

Have a stack of quarters from the floor to the top of your head OR \$225?



ROUND 3

Which One Doesn't Belong

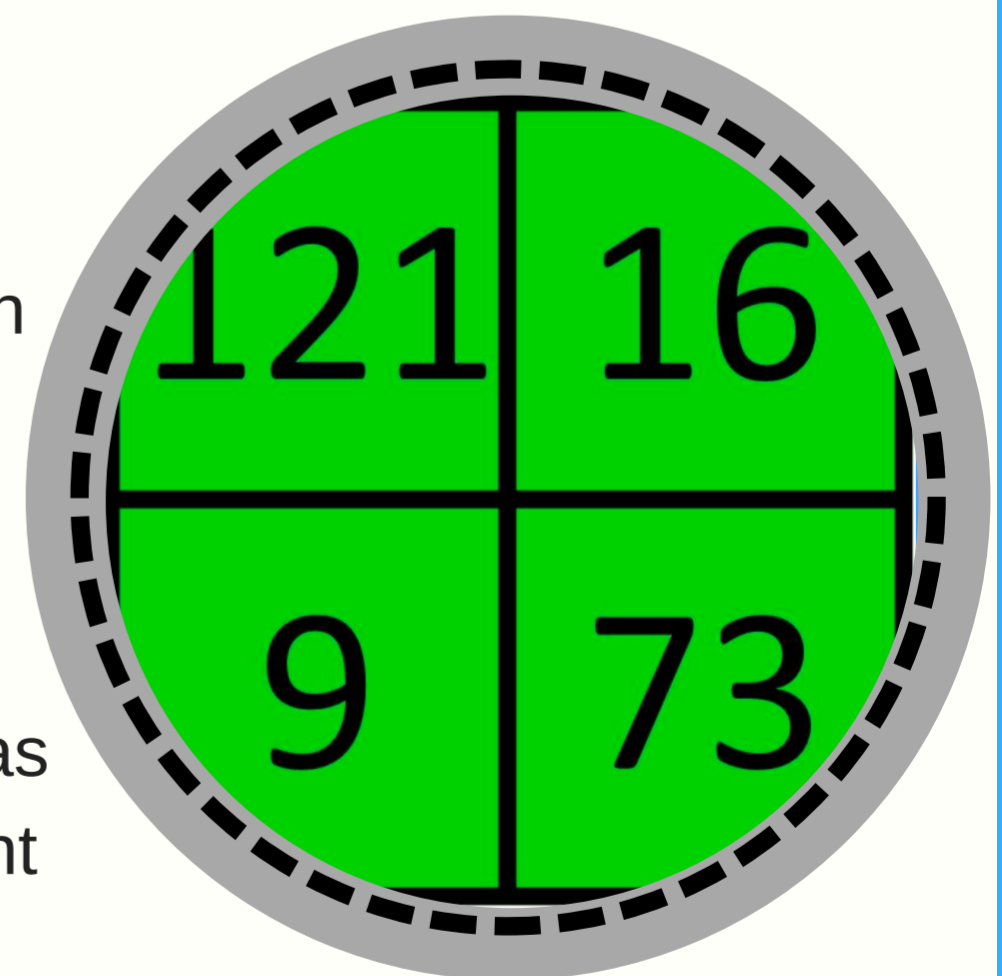
HOW

Visit wodb.ca and select a prompt to show your class. Allow them to choose only one of the 4 choices and state what that one doesn't belong with the rest.

FIGHT

Every one of the 4 has a reason why it doesn't belong with the rest. There are no wrong answers as long as a reason is chosen. You can instigate a fight by letting on that there is only one right answer.

Have your students one by one share their choice and reasoning and sit back and let the discussions happen!



ROUND 4

Estimation 180

HOW

Visit estimation180.com and choose an estimate to show your class. Ask your students to estimate 3 numbers. A number that is too high, a number that is too low, and a number that is their best guess.

FIGHT

Ask students to tell the rest of class which numbers are too their "too high" and their "too low". Let their disagreements happen. Students will say, "No way that is too high....my guess is bigger than that." Tell the class you are looking for the closest estimate.



ROUND 5

Math Before Bed

HOW

Visit mathbeforebed.com and choose an prompt to show your class. Ask your students to answer the question and show their thinking.

FIGHT

Share the different strategies and answers around the classroom. Ask your students to compare the strategies.

