

Math Masterpiece

MATH MASTERPIECE INSTRUCTIONS

When to use:

A Math Masterpiece should be used with standards that are likely to be applied to multi-step problem solving and performance task scenarios.

Supplies Needed:

- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Performance task cut into strips (referred to as task cards)
- Expert Tents (optional)

Directions:

1. Locate or write a longer task with 3 to 6 prompts around a common scenario (see <http://ccsmathactivities.com/performance-tasks/> for sample tasks that could be used). Cut the task into strips (called task cards) with one or two prompts on each card. The first task card should frame the situation and pose the first one or two questions. Each task card thereafter builds on that scenario, reaching higher depths of knowledge. The last task card in a Masterpiece should reach an “Extended Thinking” level.

2. Assign students to mixed ability partners or groups of 3. They need one piece of construction paper, a glue stick, scratch paper and a pencil. The students will switch roles on each new task card so each will have the opportunity to write on the task card while others in the group will support by using the tools such as scratch paper or a calculator (when applicable).

NOTE: Since the first task card often has the lowest math level, the teacher may choose to give this task card to the student who has shown the lowest skills in the given concept as a scaffolding technique.

3. When a group feels they have completed the first task card the writer should bring the card to the scorer (teacher). A tally mark is put in a score box for each time the scorer sees the card. This helps keep track of how many times groups have seen the scorer for each card. The goal should be to get the lowest score possible throughout the activity. Next to the tally marks is a small box. Once a task card is completed perfectly, a star is written in that small box. That signals the team that they can glue this task card on their Masterpiece. The next task card is given to the team. At this time they should switch who in the group is the writer on the task card.

NOTE: If some partner sets are falling behind other groups, you may designate “Expert Groups” that are further along. These groups have the responsibility of stopping what they are doing when another group approaches and asks for help. Expert groups should be chosen carefully and consist of students you trust to help rather than “give away the answers.”

4. The Masterpiece is completed when all task cards have stars on them and are glued, in order, on the construction paper.