

# **Sentence Frames**

## **What is a sentence frame?**

A sentence frame is a structure for writing or speaking. This visual resource is designed to support students in using academic vocabulary. The basis for an effective math sentence frame addresses the following questions:

*“What do I want my students to be able to say about \_\_\_\_\_?”*

*“What academic vocabulary do I want my students using accurately?”*

## **Why are sentence frames good for all students?**

Sentence frames are often thought of as supports for solely our ELL students. However, they provide all students support with academic language we want students using when talking with each other about mathematics. *They are not fill in the blank worksheets.* When students verbally express concepts and vocabulary, they begin to internalize the language.

Students are also being asked to demonstrate their mathematical skills and understandings through the Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Practice. Two of these Mathematical Practices specifically ask students to use and apply appropriate mathematical vocabulary:

Practice #3 *Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others* and Practice #6 *Attend to precision*.

All students need to apply academic vocabulary accurately when explaining their own ideas, responding to others ideas, and communicating their understanding and reasoning of mathematical skills and concepts.

## **How are sentence frames used?**

Sentence frames support students using academic language while talking with each other. Sentence frames need to be modeled (I Do), practiced with the teacher (We Do), and practiced during independent time (You Do). Therefore these frames should be used during all parts of instruction if they are to have the greatest impact on student learning.

## **Where did these Work Place sentence frames come from?**

These sentence frames were created by a group of PPS teachers with the support of an ELD Instructional Specialist and a Math TOSA in the spring of 2012. If you have further questions about these or how to use them effectively, please contact a Math TOSA.