



Elementary Mathematics Professional Learning

Performance Tasks



Performance Tasks are open-ended tasks where the teacher presents an authentic context, requires students to apply knowledge and skill, and allows for multiple responses.

Performance tasks have also been referred to as Performance Assessments.



Performance tasks ask students to use their skills and knowledge in a context outside of the math classroom. They may be asked to classify, compare, analyze or evaluate, focusing on higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy.



Students are provided with a very general statement such as "I have a gift card and there's a sale on at my favorite clothing store." They need to figure out what they need to know which they brainstorm using Think-Pair-Share. Once they are provided with the answers to their questions, they work, usually individually, in order to complete the rest of the task. Caution: Internet searches for Performance Tasks often provide basic word problems as a result. Although different, these problems can easily be modified to fit the Performance Task format.



Sample: Buying Cupcakes Performance Task

Performance Assessments based on the Alberta Curriculum

Articles Books Research Video: Intro to Performance Tasks aka Performance Assessments in Math Class (24 min)

Alberta Assessment Consortium Webpage for a video (3 min) and a PDF document: Top Ten Reasons to Use AAC Performance Tasks!