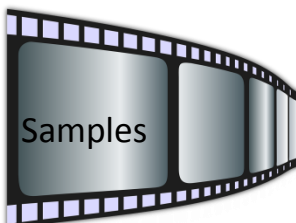


My Favorite No



“My Favorite No” is a process a teacher uses to help students find both the strengths in a students’ work and to locate and fix errors within a positive classroom environment.

My Favorite No is a very powerful strategy. When used well, the student who made the mistake is not singled out because the work is rewritten and nobody knows whose mistake it featured on the board. They feel acknowledged because of all the time spent determining what was right about the work. They learn where they went wrong because the errors are discussed and fixed as a group.

The teacher assigns a question for students to complete. Once they are finished, he quickly sorts through the responses into two piles - correct and incorrect. While he is sorting, he looks for a specific type of error that he wants to share with the class. When he is finished sorting, he pulls out his favorite “no”, the work that has the error in it and writes it on the board. He has students look for and share everything that is done correctly in the solution. Then, they work together to find and fix the error.

Although [this video](#) demonstrates an example beyond the scope of K-6 mathematics, it is an excellent example of the process and philosophy.

This blog post shares [“The Mistake Game”](#) where each small group is given its own problem. They must solve it and embed a deliberate mistake they think others might make when solving it. They present their solution to the rest of the class and the other students must ask questions to help them “find” the mistake.