



Thinking Protocol for PARCC Test Items

Teacher Preparation for the Thinking Protocol

- Choose a sample PARCC test item that addresses content you are working on in class. Make a paper copy of the item for each student with the questions listed. (Refer to sample problems on the MC²-Countdown to PARCC website for examples.)
 - What is the math content of the problem? What math practices could be highlighted? How does it connect to what students are learning in class?
 - Consider how children will interact with the technology. Will the teacher project the item or will students have access to the item on a computer/iPAD/etc.?
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Thinking Protocol (15-20 min.)

1. **Students think individually about the test item and the three questions below using one color writing utensil. (3 min)**
 - ✓ What do I know about the problem?
 - ✓ What questions do I have?
 - ✓ Explain your reasoning or thinking in solving the problem.
 2. **Think with a partner about the problem. Change colored writing utensils to add to the solution. Don't erase from your original ideas. (5 min.)**
 - ✓ Discuss your thinking to the questions with your partner. Make sure both partners have a chance to share. You may add to your thinking or change your thinking with the different color.
 3. **Share strategies for solving the problem as a whole group. (6 min.)**
 - ✓ Teacher selects 2-3 students or partners to share their ideas. The purpose is to add new ideas/strategies to the whole group's thinking.
 4. **Ask students to reflect on the problem and identify what was easy/hard about the problem. (1 min.)**
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Teacher Reflection on the Thinking Protocol

- In your PLC, discuss what data this problem could give you.
- Consider what instructional strategies are needed to support students developing of the mathematical practices and flexibility in problem solving needed for the PARCC assessment.
- How can we use the Thinking Protocol to build math confidence in students?
- How are CCSS content and math practices advanced using the Thinking Protocol as classroom warm-up problems?