

Facilitation Guide

This guide provides an overview of common scenarios and questions that may arise during the implementation of the nudge, along with strategies to support its success.

MLR Nudge 7 Pair and Compare

Recap

This nudge encourages students to look across problems rather than focus on one at a time. It promotes discussions about connections, structure, and patterns, fostering rich mathematical discourse.



How can I foster student discussions?

To encourage conversations when students are in pairs or groups, set clear expectations for respectful and productive discussions.

Provide conversation starters to help them begin.

Rotate partners regularly and monitor conversations to offer guidance.

Spotlight elements of what makes a good conversation with the whole class.

Celebrate and highlight examples of productive discussions!

Use structures like Think-Pair-Share to build comfort in sharing ideas.

Situation: Students might be confused about what they are supposed to compare or how to articulate their reasoning.

This nudge might push students outside of their comfort zone as they might just be used to solving problems.

Clearly explain the task before students begin and consider modeling the process of comparing problems as a whole class before asking students to do it in groups.



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Situation: A student gets frustrated because they can't find the "right" pair.

Reassure the student that there isn't a single "right" pair and that the activity is about exploring different relationships.

Ask them to choose any two problems and think about what makes the problems similar or different in various ways and encourage their answers.

What should the teacher be looking for during this activity?

Observe how students explain their reasoning and the connections they make between problems, as this can reveal their depth of understanding and any misconceptions.

Listen to the types of comparisons they are making to see if they are identifying meaningful similarities and differences or struggling to find connections. Additionally, pay attention to the vocabulary students use, as it can provide further insights into their understanding.

