

## Increasing Reflective Practices

To Improve Student Learning

Math-Ese Workshop  
June 1, 2006

## Reflective Practices

- Teachers need to carefully reflect on lessons
  - What went well
  - What did not
  - What to do differently next time
- Students need to reflect, too!
  - What went well
  - What did not
  - What to do differently next time

## The Student

Reflective Practices

## Why Students Should Reflect

- Some of the most powerful learning happens when students reflect on their own learning
- Students may not always be aware of *what* they are learning... or *why*
- Students begin to understand *how* they learn (what educators call metacognition)

## Why Students Should Reflect

- They realize some very important things about real-world work
  - The necessity of critically reviewing, revising, and sometimes completely starting over on a project or assignment
  - How to effectively communicate and collaborate with others
- Students should not only reflect on their **actions** in the learning process, but also about their **attitudes**

## Reflection May Occur:

- Individually
- In Small Groups or Learning Teams
- Student-to-Student Dialogues
- As a Class
  
- **AT ANY TIME DURING THE LEARNING PROCESS**  
(not only at the end of the lesson)

## Student Reflection Strategies

The teacher should:

- Establish clear expectations ahead of time
- Provide stimulating prompts and reflective activities
- Require students to organize their work so they may see personal growth
  - Feel free to employ the Student 'P-Word'
- Teach them how to reflect, or self-monitor
  - Adapt to your grade level or subject

## Sample Reflective Activities

Type	Positioning	Individual, Learning Team, or Whole Class
Free-write Journal	Throughout Project	Individual
Writing Letters to Others	Throughout Project	Individual
Structured Journal	Throughout Project	Individual
Team Journal	Throughout Project	Learning Team
Notebook (aka Portfolio) Coversheet	End of Project	Individual or Learning Team
Teacher-Led Discussions	At Milestones	Whole Class
Brief "check-in" presentation or discussion	At Milestones or End of Project	Learning Teams or Whole Class

## Prompting Student Reflection

- *Why did I miss this problem or concept?*
  - Students write a rationale
- *Did I get better?*
  - Not a Yes or No question, students must support
- *The most important thing I learned today was...*
- *I struggled with...*
  - *I believe I struggled with this because...*
  - *My plan of improvement is ...*
- *I wish the teacher had covered...*

## The Teacher...

Reflective Practices

## Your Thoughts

- Other prompts, reflective activities, etc.