



CSV Upper School Math Tutor Prompts

- The goal is middle-school math tutoring is not (necessarily) to “finish the HW” or even “get it right.”
- The goal is to facilitate mathematical reasoning and *student* sense-making (verbal and/or on the page).

If you and/or the student aren't sure how to **start a problem**:

- “What is this problem asking you to do?”
- “What math strategy or operations could you use to solve this?”
- “What do you already know that you could use?”
- “What resources do you have that could help?” (Notes, handouts, textbook, etc.)

If a student is moving quickly and seems to be **skipping steps** or making mistakes:

- “Can you show your steps on the page so that I can understand them better?”

If you think a student's **written work** might be incorrect or on the wrong track:

- “Can you explain your first step to me?”
- “How can you move from this step to the next step?”

If a student's **verbal explanation** is unclear or seems incorrect:

- Repeat or paraphrase what the student said. Ask: “Is that what you mean?”
- “I'm not sure I understand. Can you say that in a different way?”
- “How do you know?”
- “Can you show me on the page?”

After all those questions, if you or the student **still don't fully understand** a problem:

- “What is a specific question that you could ask your teacher tomorrow about this problem?”
- Prompt the student to write that question on their HW and put a star next to the problem.