



MATH STRATEGY: Writing Models

The Learning Benefits:

When students review writing samples relevant to the math content they are learning, they can improve their math writing skills. By comparing their own writing against models, students learn to identify which elements are most effective in communication.

Your Explanation	Sample Explanation	Compare the Explanations
Matias borrows \$10,000 to buy the truck. The \$10,000 is the principal that he borrows.	Matias borrows \$10,000 to buy the truck. The \$10,000 is the principal amount.	<input type="text" value="Write your comparison here."/>
Matias' bank charges 1% interest rate per month.	Matias' bank charges 12% interest per year, which is 1% per month.	<input type="text" value="1%/mo and 12%/yr same same"/>
After one year, Matias will owe interest of 12% of the \$10,000 principal. The bank also charges a \$99 rate.	After one year, Matias will owe interest of 12% of the \$10,000 principal. The bank also charges a \$99 application fee.	<input type="text" value="Write your comparison here."/>

Implementation Use Case:

Explain Your Work is a scaffolded writing activity that is part of the Speak Agent Math platform. Students use it to craft math explanations in three stages:

1. Students use visual aids to fill in sentence frames.
2. Next, students finish sentence stems by typing. They compare responses with a writing model.
3. Finally, students write their own explanations. Teachers can review and give timely feedback.

Distance Learning Tips

- ▶ Use activities like *Explain Your Work* and *Tall Tales* to provide writing models that students may modify using sentence frames and sentence stems.
- ▶ *Explain Your Work* asks students to compare their sentence stem input with a writing model. All comparisons and responses are stored in the digital portfolio.
- ▶ Teachers also review student writing submissions online in their Speak Agent accounts.

Favorite Teacher Feature

Explain Your Work guides students through a self-check step. It shows students a side-by-side comparison of their work and a writing model.

LEARN MORE: speakagent.com/strategies