

Connecting Students' Responses

1 Peg Smith: Connecting is the practice of making connections between different
2 strategies that have been discussed. And making connections between
3 specific strategies and key mathematical ideas that are driving the lesson.

4 The point of connecting isn't to see how many different ways there are to
5 do a problem, but rather, to see how one solution may be connected to
6 another solution strategy. And that, that may not be immediately visible.

7 The other thing is to make sure that in every solution that you discuss, it's
8 clear in the solution what the important mathematical ideas are. So that
9 students understand what the contribution of a particular strategy is to the
10 mathematical idea that's on the table for examination.

11 One of the key things that needs to happen during connecting is the
12 teacher is not the one who should be making the connections. The goal is
13 to try to engage students in making connections. So here, the teachers
14 questioning is critical. Asking the students, how is this solution related to
15 this one? How do you see-- The thing that you identified here, how does
16 that appear over here? And it's also important that these questions not be
17 directed just to the students who actually made the presentations. But
18 rather, making sure that all of the other students understand those
19 themselves by framing questions to the class. How is this related to this?
20 What do you think about what he just said? Does that make sense?

21 Could you use another number? And how would that solution work? So
22 the questioning the teacher does here, really influences what it is that
23 students take away from the lesson.