

HOW TO DO MATH ARGUMENTATION

Generating Cases

- Think about more than just one case.
- Be creative:
 - Try simple numbers or shapes.
 - Try hard numbers or shapes.
 - Try “weird” numbers or shapes.

Conjecturing

- Use patterns to make statements about what will always be true.
- Make bold conjectures about what might be true.
- Avoid judging other people’s conjectures.

Justifying

- Look for reasons why a conjecture is true or false.
- Build off of other people’s ideas.
- Try to convince others of your ideas, but keep in mind that you could be wrong—which is OK.
- Show it a different way. Make a drawing, table, or graph.
- Be obvious.

Concluding

- Know when to stop.
- Retell the argument from beginning to end.
- Base your conclusions on what is said, not who said it.