

Setting Group Norms *A Suggested Process*

Reflection Prompt: *What would make this lesson study group a supportive and productive site for your mathematical learning?*

- ✓ **Write:** Jot down a list of characteristics important to you in a group designed to support your learning. It may help to think about characteristics of groups that have functioned well—or poorly—to support your mathematical learning in the past. You may want to consider some general norms (such as listening and taking responsibility) and some that have been identified as especially important to mathematics, such as
 - Exploring and “unpacking” mathematical connections, being curious;
 - Explaining and justifying solutions, agreeing on what constitutes an adequate justification
 - Evaluating solution strategies for correctness, efficiency, and insight
 - Expressing agreement or disagreement.

- ✓ **Discuss:** As a group, share and discuss ideas generated by each member, taking particular care to identify and discuss any possible contradictions. For example, if one group member asks for “safe” and another for “challenging my thinking,” discuss how both can be honored.

- ✓ **Synthesize:** Synthesize members’ ideas to a list of about 5 key norms you all support.

- ✓ **Record:** Record the norms for future reference. A group chart and an electronic copy are both helpful.

- ✓ At the start of each meeting, choose one norm to focus on that day. At the end of the meeting, discuss whether you upheld it and what can be improved in your process.

Some concrete examples of norms from lesson study teams may provide a useful start to think about the kinds of norms that will be useful for your group.

- Listen thoughtfully, with an open mind
- Share the air
- Give 100%!
- Stay on task
- Be punctual
- Have a positive outlook toward self and others
- Be student-focused always
- Show respect for each other’s ideas . . . yet challenge!