

# Improve Students' Test Performance through the Simultaneous Teaching<sup>®</sup> of Mathematics and Language Arts

Discover how the writing process can **develop children's deeper understanding of mathematics** and help them communicate more effectively on today's performance-based tests.

A 2-day workshop for elementary teachers of grades K through 5 who are interested in learning new ways to improve their students' abilities to think and communicate at a higher level through *Simultaneous Learning*<sup>®</sup>

In today's classrooms teachers are challenged to fit more and more into each day. This workshop provides the participant with ready-to-use, classroom-tested activities that will develop students' mathematical understanding and **prepare students for performance-based tests**. Through Simultaneous Teaching<sup>®</sup>, these activities and strategies will allow the teacher to streamline lesson planning and provide connections across the curriculum to ensure more effective application by students.

Participants will clarify their own thinking and extend their own knowledge of mathematics as they experience the power of writing. Through the use of literature and writing activities, participants will gain confidence and expertise in analyzing students' mathematical thinking, planning instruction more effectively, and reporting on students' progress more accurately. Discover how to create a classroom climate where students enjoy thinking, talking, and writing about mathematics!

## Workshop Highlights:

### Prepare students for performance-based tests by:

- Understanding performance items
- Helping students read for critical elements
- Developing a repertoire of problem-solving strategies
- Increasing students' ability to self-edit
- Helping students learn to recognize and develop criteria for exemplary work
- Applying the writing process to real situations

### Streamline your planning and teaching by integrating curricula through:

- Hands-on projects that weave language arts, mathematics, and other disciplines
- Literature that enhances mathematics knowledge and understanding
- Authentic applications that make mathematics come alive

### Integrate a wide range of mathematics skills and concepts:

- Strategies for basic facts
- Measurement
- Geometry
- Ratios
- Patterns and relationships
- Problem solving

### Strengthen the assessment/instruction cycle in your classes by:

- Examining and analyzing student work samples for strengths and concerns
- Using portfolios to discover patterns in a child's work
- Exploring student self-assessment
- Using peer assessment
- Facilitating student-generated scoring guides
- Promoting journal writing

### Deepen students' knowledge, understanding, and application of mathematics by:

- Going beyond the learning of rules to discover the *why* behind the formula
- Developing students' mathematics vocabulary in an authentic manner
- Making the process skills of communication, representation, reasoning and proof, connections, and problem solving an integral part of every lesson
- Adapting rich problems for success by all students
- Using manipulatives that help children visualize and generalize math concepts
- Helping students think flexibly
- Relating mathematics to real-world applications

### Develop technical writing skills so your students can:

- Effectively incorporate diagrams, tables, graphs, and pictures
- Describe procedures, methods, and solutions
- Use precise vocabulary and language
- Choose appropriate methods for organizing and reporting data
- Promote clear writing through proven strategies

### Increase the school/home connection through:

- Collaborative homework activities
- Internet sites
- Ideas for parent evenings and open houses
- Student portfolios

### Develop a mathematical community that:

- Involves students in collaborative activities
- Celebrates unique approaches and perspectives on problems
- Promotes sharing of solutions and risk-taking
- Builds student confidence and success with rich problems



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