

Math Journals = a variety of math related ideas and experiences.

What?

- drawings to illustrate math problems or math concepts
- written explanations of mental calculations
- [graphic organizers](#) with math concepts
- math vocabulary lists
- math inspired art (such as [tangram](#) art)
- an interview of an adult who uses math in his job
- foldables!
- newspaper or magazine clippings of math related stories
- the actual hands-on materials or manipulatives
- [charts and graphs](#)
- an explanation of how a problem was solved

Why?

1) writing about math **stimulates a different part of the brain** than simply

working the arithmetic alone.

2) By **using multiple parts** of the brain during the learning process, the understanding is deepened and **retention is increased.**

3) In fact, the more ways you can learn math (through art, music, drawing, writing for example) the more pathways you create in the mind. Those pathways then become a network of various avenues for the student to travel along in doing math problem solving. It's like having four ways to get home from the grocery store instead of just one.

4) The process of **writing** and the process of mathematical **problem solving** have some **similarities**. Both require organized thought and logically presentation. So although the skills are different, there are some **similar cognitive functions** going on.

5) The teacher can find out if the student really understands the mathematical concept. By reading a math journal, you **get an inside view into a person's math understanding**

PR

- use correct math vocabulary
- use complete sentences
- use specific examples
- detailed explanations of results

Math Notebook Rubric

Student: _____

CATEGORY	Wow! (4)	Good. (3)	Almost. (2)	Poor. (1)	SCORE
Neatness & Organization	Handwriting is neat. Notebook is organized in an easy-to-understand format.	Handwriting is usually neat. Notebook is organized in an easy-to-understand format.	Handwriting is not very neat. Notebook organization is not easy to understand.	Handwriting is sloppy and hard to read. Notebook organization is difficult to follow.	
Content Accuracy	All information recorded is accurate.	Most information recorded is accurate.	Some information is accurate, but most is not.	Information recorded is not accurate.	
Required Elements	Table of contents is up-to-date, pages are numbered, no pages have been skipped, and titles are included.	Table of contents is up-to-date, mostly all pages are numbered and include a title, no skipped pages.	Table of contents is not up-to-date, missing some page numbers and/or titles, a few skipped pages.	Table of contents has not been updated, pages are not numbered/titled, several skipped pages.	
Illustrations & Diagrams	Illustrations and diagrams are clear, accurate and labeled.	Illustrations and diagrams are usually clear, accurate and labeled.	Some illustrations and diagrams are clear, accurate, and labeled, with some missing.	Illustrations and diagrams are sloppy/unclear or missing.	