

Teachers please read the following aloud to your students before giving them the task. Once you have collected the papers, please indicate by putting an “M” in the upper right hand corner of the paper if that student used manipulatives.

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Dear Students,

Today we are asking you to complete a math task that will help us better understand how middle school students show their thinking when doing a math problem. You will have about 15 minutes to complete the problem individually.

Your work should show all of your thinking about this problem. Try to impress us. If you have math manipulatives in your classroom, feel free to use them, but calculators are not allowed.

Thank you again for your help with this project. Do your best work and if you have time please try and solve the problem another way on the back of the paper. Once again, no calculators, and please work independently, without any help from your teacher or classmates. If you do have questions that you would ask, just write them on the paper.

Thank you again for your help.

*Christine King*

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