

## Teaching Strategies

# Warm-Ups: Letters to the Class

## Teaching Strategies Series

*Teaching Strategies* segments are brief 1-3 minute videos that feature examples of effective classroom practices from teachers around the country.

## About this Segment

In this segment, two elementary school teachers use mail, or letters to the class, to introduce the learning target of a math lesson. The letters appeal to the students' imagination and create a setting for problem-based math instruction.

## Suggested PD Activities

Educators may use the Teaching Strategies video segments and accompanying materials as professional development on an individual basis or as part of a learning group.

**Discussion:** After watching the video, use the following prompt to facilitate discussion.

1. What warm-up activities do you use to introduce lesson topics?

**Reflection:** After the discussion, participants are encouraged to record new learning and ideas. The following questions can be used to encourage reflection.



*(Reflection questions can also be found online with the resources for this video.)*

1. How can you incorporate an ELA/writing component into a math lesson?
2. How can you use a letter scenario in one of your classroom activities?
3. How can you connect a real-world scenario to a learning target?

### Online resources available on this topic:

“1st Grade: 1.OA.2, 4, & 5, MP.1, 2, & 4 - Relating Counting to Addition.” Common Core in the Classroom video series. CC 360. School Improvement Network. <http://www.pd360.com/index.cfm?ContentId=6215>

“Five Practical Ideas for Lesson Starters.” (November 2010). [Blog entry]. *Creative Education*. Accessed at <http://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/blog/index.php/2010/11/five-practical-ideas-for-lesson-starters/> on April 22, 2013.

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*This program is Issue 2187 produced by the School Improvement Network.*

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