

Stay or Stray

Students make their thinking visible to peers, and provide and use descriptive feedback.

Why Should I Try This?

- ✓ Students need to be able to orally communicate their thinking to their peers.
- ✓ Provides students with an opportunity to act on peer feedback.
- ✓ Cross curricular. Can be transferred to any subject.

How it Works

1. After partners have completed a task, Partner A stays with the product, and Partner B goes to see another student product.
2. Partner A makes their thinking visible to the student who is visiting their work.
3. Partner B visits another product, asks questions for clarification, and provides descriptive feedback relevant to the Success Criteria.
4. Students return to their original work. Partner A shares the feedback they received on their work, and the partners use the feedback to make necessary adjustments to the product.

How do I find the time to do this?

Use this strategy as an alternative to traditional gallery walks.

How You Can Use this Information

1. To determine whether students can explain their thinking.
2. To observe students providing and using descriptive feedback.
3. To support the triangulation of data through conversations and observations.
4. To guide next steps in instruction and learning.

"The Stay or Stray activity provided the students with an "as learning" opportunity to solidify their understanding of perimeter and area, to reflect on their methodology and to challenge their approach to solving problems involving area and perimeter. By allowing the students to "defend" their approach, and to "question" the approach of other students, they were able to build a personal "tool box" or "game plan" that they would feel comfortable using in future problem solving situations."

Susan K., Grade 9 Applied Math Teacher

Other ways to try this idea:

Feedback could be oral, written on sticky notes, or could follow a formal template.

To collect more feedback, students could visit two or more pieces of work.

Students could explain how they used the feedback to improve their work or why they decided not to use the feedback.