

Discussion Questions for the Publishers' Criteria for the CCSSM

1. Focus and coherence are the two major design principles of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Why are these two principles so important in the selection of instructional materials at each grade level?
2. Aside from purchasing decisions, in what ways can you use the Publishers' Criteria?
3. Discuss how the shift toward focus in mathematics is evident in the first three criteria. How are the first three criteria similar and how are they different?
4. Discuss how understanding criterion #4 can have an impact on instruction.
5. Criteria #5 and #6 directly address the coherence evident in the Standards. Give examples of ways that some textbooks have previously lacked coherence.
6. The role the Standards for Mathematical Practice should play in materials is described in criteria #7-#10. Using evidence from the Publishers' Criteria, discuss ways in which materials can assist teachers in fully understanding the practices.
7. Which of the criteria present the most significant challenge in your current materials?
8. Which indicators of quality (on pages 17-19) seem most urgent to address for the needs of your students/classroom/district? Why?