

## Strategies for Modifying Textbook Tasks

Compare your list of task modifications with the list of task modification strategies identified by others. How is your list similar? Different?

- Ask students to create real-world stories for “naked number” problems.
- Include a prompt that asks students to represent the information another way (with a picture, in a table, a graph, an equation, with a context).
- Include a prompt that requires students to make a generalization.
- Use a task “out of sequence” before students have memorized a rule or have practiced a procedure that can be routinely applied.
- Eliminate components of the task that provide too much scaffolding.
- Adapt a task so as to provide more opportunities for students to think and reason – let students figure things out for themselves.
- Create a prompt that asks students to write about the meaning of the mathematics concept.
- Add a prompt that asks students to make note of a pattern or to make a mathematical conjecture and to test their conjecture.
- Include a prompt that requires students to compare solution paths or mathematical relationships and write about the relationship between strategies or concepts.
- Select numbers carefully so students are more inclined to note relationships between quantities (e.g., two tables can be used to think about the solutions to the four, six or eight tables).