

THE 400-METERS RACE MINI H.O.T. LESSON

Grade Level and Course: 9th grade Algebra 1

Time Frame: 30 minutes

Content Objectives:

- Students will be able to describe, interpret, and analyze graphs from a given context.

Language Objectives:

- Vocabulary: 400-meters race, commentator, commentary
- Students will be able to recognize characteristics of a good written explanation.
- Students will be able to describe the graphs for the three different runners verbally and in writing.

Materials:

- The 400-Meters Race Handout

Launch Task:

- Write the vocabulary words on the board. Introduce students to the prompt. Have a student read the prompt out loud. Be sure that all students understand the prompt. Go over the vocabulary words on the board. Have students come up with their own explanations for the vocabulary words.

Individual Work:

- Give students some time (7-8 minutes) to work on the prompt individually. Have students read the stories silently and match each story with a runner.

Whole-Class Discussion:

- Go over the answers as a class. For each story, ask students how they knew that the story matched the graph for that particular runner. What particular parts led them to believe so?
- Discuss the written commentaries. What did the writer include? Was the story detailed? Was the story specific enough to let us match the story with the graph of the runner?

Individual Work:

- Your turn! Give students some time (7-8 minutes) to think about the graph for the remaining runner. After, students are to write their own commentary or story to match that particular graph. Encourage students to be very specific and detailed enough to give others enough information to interpret the graph.

Whole-Class Discussion:

- Ask students to interpret the graph (they do not have to necessarily read their written piece). Just verbally describe what happened to the third runner. How do we know this?
- Ask some students to share their commentaries with the rest of the class. Discuss positive aspects of the student's piece of writing.

Closure:

- Collect students' work.