

## OPEN ENDED MATH RESPONSE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

1. Teach students to answer these questions using two columns (one labeled “WORK” and one labeled “WORDS”).
2. Teach students to NOT box, underline or circle answers!!! When students do this – scorers will not give any partial credit. If answers are NOT boxed, circled, or underlined – scorers will look at all work and give partial credit. When a student boxes their answers, they eliminate other work on the page, thus making only one answer possible. If their work led them through the correct answer and it's not boxed, they can get credit for the right answer.
3. Teach student NOT to write “run on” math sentences. Points will be deducted for this. Don't use run-on math sentences. It doesn't matter if you've done 20 steps. Just one run-on is an automatic deduction.  
Example: Don't write  $5*6 = 30 + 7 = 37$   
Instead:  $5*6 = 30$   
 $30+7=37$
4. Make sure students understand what “Explain your answer” means. PSSA scorers deduct points for, “I multiplied 2 times 3” They want students to use few numbers in the explanations – and write what each number represents: “I multiplied the number of students by the number of pencils to find a product of 6.”
5. Always use units when not in question stem. If the question includes “in dollars”, then you don't need to have the \$ in the answer. If it does not use the units, then you must write the unit in the answer. If the unit is incorrect or in the wrong place, then the score will be reduced. Example 5\$ is incorrect.
6. If the question asks about expressions – they cannot have an equal sign. Once an equal sign is present, credit is deducted for not understanding “expressions”
7. Work must be legible and dark enough for scorers to read, or it will receive 0 points.