Math Journals

Math journals are a way for students to demonstrate understanding using higher-level thinking skills. These open-ended questions require students to think deeply and give a response that involves more than simply recalling a fact or reproducing a skill.

Differentiate journal prompts based on ability and readiness of each group of students. Below are examples of the types of journal prompts utilized throughout the unit.

The difference between two decimals is 6.53. What might the two decimals be? Show 5 possible answers. Include your thinking.	Show 5 possible solutions for each statement: a) the sum of two decimals is less than 1 b) the sum of two decimals is greater than 1 c) the sum of two decimals is equal to 1. Explain your thought process for selecting the decimals you used.
How many different ways can you make your calculator show a number with a particular decimal such as 12.34 without pressing the decimal point key? Explain how you solved the problem.	In this calculation some numbers are missing. What might they be? 3.?? +?.7? 6.?3
I wrote a sequence of numbers, adding the same number to each to get the next number. I wrote down 2.57 to start and 3.61 to finish. What might the numbers in between be?	?.? x ?.? = ?.? What might the missing numbers be? Explain your thinking and process for finding a solution.
The product of two numbers is 14.4. What might these numbers be?	I divided 6.12 by 3 and wrote down the answer, 2.4. What did I do wrong and what other similar questions might I get wrong in the future?
If I use a *flat* to represent one whole, a *long* to represent tenths, and a *unit* to represent hundredths, what numbers can I represent using exactly ten pieces? Include pictures, numbers, and words.	I added three decimal numbers together to make exactly 4. What might the three numbers be? Explain your thoughts.