

## Steps for collecting student drawings

In research, we aim to be consistent in how we collect data and information. Below are a few steps that can help guide teachers to consistently and efficiently collect student classroom drawings. Teachers and researchers have conducted drawing exercises with classrooms ranging from the first months of Kindergarten to graduate-level math courses, so it may be necessary for you to adapt the directions for your context as needed.

- 1) Schedule about 15 minutes to conduct the drawing exercise with each class. We know some students will complete the activity quickly while others might work on it for much longer. So, depending on your classroom culture, it may be helpful to set a timer for your students or provide students encouragement to use the allotted time effectively.
- 2) Briefly explain to your class they are going to participate in a student drawing activity. You can explain that this is not a graded assignment and students should feel comfortable to respond to the prompt however they wish. They are no right or wrong classroom drawings! If it is helpful, you may wish to introduce the drawing exercise by bringing up the larger context of all the different teaching and learning activities that happen in school. Teachers would then encourage students to imagine themselves in their math class for a few moments before they settle on their idea and begin their drawing. Students should work individually on their drawing so that every student produces their own unique image of math class.
- 3) Print copies of the blank drawing form ([pdf link](#)).
- 4) Decide if you want students to include their names or other identifying features on their drawing. In our research, we typically collect anonymous drawings by not collecting student names, but this is the entirely at the discretion of each teacher.
- 5) Write the drawing prompt “Draw a picture of your Math class” on the board for the class and read it aloud. Then, provide each student with a blank drawing form (and pencil). Students can use crayons, markers, or colored pencils if they wish, but pencil-made drawings are perfectly acceptable. Students may ask about what to draw, so try your best to refer them to the drawing prompt and create suggest ideas that will influence their drawings or plant any ideas in their heads. There are no right or wrong answers.
- 6) If needed during the exercise, students should be encouraged do their best regardless of their artistic ability. If necessary, please ask students to try and label anything important (like the teacher or students) that are not immediately obvious. Remind students that this is not group work and every student should try and come up with their own personal depiction. Students can be reminded that this activity is not graded and that all artistic abilities are just fine and that “stick figures” are perfectly acceptable! Encourage students to use as much of the 15 minutes as possible to complete their drawing.
- 7) Collect the drawing(s) trying not to offer individual commentary or judgment. Kindly thank the students collectively for their participation.