



An alternative data source you might consider to fuel a rich discussion about effective independent practice is the voice of your students. To gather feedback on the effectiveness of the assigned independent practice for students, you can simply ask them! What are students saying about the effectiveness of independent practice on their learning?

Consider providing students with two to three questions and gathering their responses (orally or in writing) as evidence of effective independent-practice routines. Students can provide keen insight into the independent-practice world. You can use this survey as a sample tool for students or adapt it to fit your needs and grade level. Your students can provide powerful insights into your current use of independent practice. Before asking students to respond, take time to explain this is a risk-free space, so they can share their thoughts honestly.

As you work collaboratively with your colleagues to ensure daily mathematics assignments are limited to no more than eight to ten tasks, you should interview your students, individually or in small groups, to learn how much time assignments are taking them to complete. Gauge their opinions about being given all answers (so they can formatively check their work and try again) and their response to self-assigning competence and confidence scores to their independent practice.