

PATTY FERRANT: I want you to give advice to your peers — that's your friends in this classroom — to help them be successful on the MARS test next week. What do you do when you're stuck? What strategy should they try? I want you to find someone new right now and go give them advice. So one person in the group leaves. Go fast, go! We only have, like, three minutes.

STUDENT: Uh, when you're done with the problem, keep checking, check it two times, and check the anchor poster if it makes sense.

STUDENT: When you're stuck take a deep breath and calm yourself and don't get [inaudible].

STUDENT: Double check your answers. Make sure each aspect of your problem is correct because if not, the outcome will be wrong. Do a three-read for at least every problem, check your answers, and be sure, um, you're neat so you won't get lost in your work.

STUDENT: And you go with your gut. Yeah.

PATTY FERRANT: Did your partner give you advice on a good strategy or did you give your partner a good advice on a strategy? What's a strategy? Anyone. A strategy you can use. Aaliyah?

STUDENT: Do a three-read.

PATTY FERRANT: A three-read. That is definitely, I think, number one. What do you do when you're stuck, Jazzlyn?

STUDENT: Use the anchor posters.

PATTY FERRANT: Oh my gosh, use the anchor posters! Absolutely! What else?

STUDENT: Draw pictures.

PATTY FERRANT: Draw pictures! Draw pictures! Absolutely draw pictures! What other strategies? Yeah?

STUDENT: [Inaudible]

PATTY FERRANT: Say again.

STUDENT: Equations.

PATTY FERRANT: Make some equations. Perhaps there's going to be a situation that if you make an equation it's going to make sense. So making equations, drawing pictures. Yeah?

STUDENT: Make a table.

PATTY FERRANT: Making systematic.

STUDENT: Labeling.

PATTY FERRANT: Oh, thank gosh you said that! Labeling anything you know. Ashley?

STUDENT: Don't rush.

PATTY FERRANT: Don't rush. Yeah. Don't rush. You have as much time as you need. Double check your work. So especially if you're done early, double check that work.

STUDENT: Underlining important things.

PATTY FERRANT: Underlining, highlighting important information. Absolutely. Be organized, be systematic so you're not getting lost in the work and it's making no sense. I think it goes back to making sure you label things, underline things. Um, are you allowed to use calculators?

STUDENT: Yes.

PATTY FERRANT: Yeah, use them, but don't just one time. Double check what you put in a calculator because sometimes we put things in a calculator that doesn't even make sense to us. Um...oh wait, and make sense. What should you always try to make sense of?

STUDENT: Everything.

PATTY FERRANT: Everything but...okay, you got an answer: five. What should you do? Make sense of it. What does five mean?