WHY DOESN'T IT BELONG?

Why Doesn't It Belong? (WDIB) is an adaptation of the classic "Cookie Monster" song from Sesame Street (One of these things is not like the others... https://youtu.be/ENFJUEM0XTc). The problem structure is appropriate for warmups and review. WDIB problems mostly appear in the Review section of many *MathLinks* packets, and sometimes they're found within a lesson.

WDIB is NOT a multiple-choice question. Typically, an argument can be made for several (perhaps all) of the choices to "not belong."

Why: Engage students in mathematical work, promote divergent thinking, encourage students to apply mathematical and reasoning skills, encourage mathematical discussions.

Prepare ahead:

- Choose an appropriate WDIB problem or create your own.
- Think about possible student responses and questions to ask.
- Create a display of the problem.

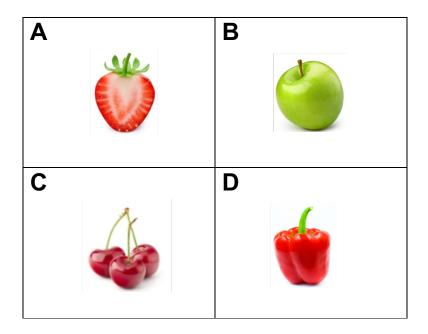
Launch the activity:

- Use non-math WDIB problems first to establish routines and norms for think time, write time, and discussion.
- Give students time to think about WDIB individually. Then encourage pair shares and group discussions.

Accountability/Follow-up:

- Ask students to write WDIB responses on a post-it note and place it on the problem. Then
 discuss ideas. Using post-it notes is a great strategy for assessing student thinking,
 especially when using WDIB as an exit ticket.
- Consider a WDIB problem as a group quiz or competition. The group with the most creative and clear reasons why each option does not belong might earn an extra credit point or bragging rights!
- WDIB examples can be found on websites such as http://www.meaningfulmathmoments.com/which-one-doesnt-belong-wodb.html and https://mashupmath.com/blog/wodb.

WHY DOESN'T IT BELONG?: FOOD



Possible responses:

A doesn't belong because it's red fruit that's cut/sliced.

B doesn't belong because it's not a red fruit.

C doesn't belong because it's a red fruit in a bunch.

D doesn't belong because it's a red vegetable.

WHY DOESN'T IT BELONG?: NUMBERS

9	16
25	43

Possible responses:

9 doesn't belong it is the only number whose digits don't add up to 7

16 doesn't belong become it is the only even number.

43 doesn't belong because it is not square of another number.