

CollectEdNY Model Review - A Single Resource

This review by Mark Trushkowsky is a good example of review of a single resource, in this case a video illustrating a math teaching strategy. We can use short reviews like this to share specific things we have used in our classrooms: individual lesson plans, teaching strategies or materials.

My Favorite No: A Great Way to Celebrate Student Mistakes in Math

Web Site: [My Favorite No: Learning from Mistakes](#)

Appropriate for: *Use in class, Knowledge of teaching*

Resources Available: *Videos*

Readiness for Use in Adult Education: *Resources can be used as they are*

Level of Engagement: *3 = very engaging, 3 = highly recommended*

Choose a title for the review (different from the name of the resource) that helps teachers see why they should be interested.

You will be given a login to Wordpress to fill out these fields when entering your review.

My Favorite No is a great assessment activity that turns students' mistakes into collective opportunities for learning. It takes very little time, so teachers can do it often and weave it into the daily routine of their class.

The premise behind it is simple – students making mistakes is one of the most important tools we have when it comes to helping them learn. We want to expose their mistakes in class, because that is when they can learn something. My Favorite No is a great way to look at student mistakes without shame – it is an empowering thing to tell your class, “This is a really great mistake.”

This video, from the [Teaching Channel video collection](#), is short – only six minutes and gives you a good sense of how My Favorite No works.

As you watch the video, here are a few questions to think about:

- What criteria the teacher uses to select her favorite no?
- What are the benefits of talking about mistakes in this way?
- Why does she have the class start with things that are working well in the favorite no?
- What are the benefits of having the students correct the mistake, instead of the teacher doing it herself?

Provide URL links to specific tools/content areas within the resource.

Think about specific information or questions that would be useful to teachers using this resource for the first time.

Note: The activity in the video asks students to multiply binomials and/or combine like terms. This is obviously the sort of problem that we would only expect to see in an HSE class of adult learners. But My Favorite No can be used with students at any level with whatever topics your students are working on.



Mark Trushkowsky

Mathematics Professional Development Coordinator at [CUNY Adult Literacy/High School Equivalency Program](#)

Though he's got memories in 40 states of the union, Mark always returns home to Brooklyn, where he now lives happily ever after with his partner Sarah and their daughter Liv. He enjoys doing math problems that take days, singing as a form of meditation and reading late into the night. At 16, he believed the next revolution would be waged through poetry. Now he believes it is adult basic education. But he still likes poetry. Mark has worked in adult basic education and HSE since 2001.

When your review is accepted, we will ask you to write a short bio for the site.