$9+3=\square+4$
What does an equal sign mean to you?

What does the blank represent?
How can you use manipulatives to help you solve?

How can you use a balance to help you solve? What is the known information?

What is the unknown information?
Can you represent the square in a different way?

What others signs do you use in math to show a relationship?

What do they show?
How does $9+3$ relate to blank +4 ?
What do you think the blank represents? How can you make both sides the same?

How can drawing help you if you are struggling?
$9+7=\ldots+8$
$8+4=\ldots+5$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 3+5=\_\quad 3+\ldots=8 \\
& 8=3+\ldots \quad=3+5 \\
& 8=\_ \\
& 3+5=\ldots+5 \\
& 3+5=\ldots+4
\end{aligned}
$$

Try these and discuss.

