

## Math Reflection

What I believe about math is that I really don't like it, but at the end of the day through high school math I learned how to solve problems and to not give up when I don't fully understand something. I dislike math, but I do need it. The reason why I dislike math is because I don't find it entertaining and it is confusing. I am a slow learner when it comes to math and I get a lot of numbers mixed up. Mathematics is the study of the measurement, properties, and relationships of quantities, using numbers and symbols. Problem solving is the key to being able to do all other aspects of mathematics, and it also gives a better understanding of the problem at hand. When problem solving, we learn that there are many different ways to solve a problem, and that more than one answer is possible. It involves the ability to explore, think through an issue, and the reason logically to solve routine as well as non-routine problems. For example, in real life, when you get into a conflict, there are many ways to solve that problem. If you are in a fight, you have the option to solve it by talking or you could just drop it.

I feel like the way I was being taught math was basically a teacher trying to fly threw the lessons. And what I mean by that is that the teachers worried more about trying to finish the lessons in a certain amount of time instead of making sure everyone, me included, understood what was just being taught. I have been in math classes where the teacher only cares about the work being turned in, not whether you know how to do it. I might get help with some problems, but when I am on my

own, I still don't know how to do it. I think it should be taught the way it is now but more help on making sure everybody has an understanding on what was just being taught. I understood what was being taught by taking the time out and really evaluating the problem and taking what the teacher taught and applying it.

Over time, as a math student I have become more willing to try at math and not give up so easily. Early on in my math career, I did not know too much about mathematical equations and concepts, such as fractions. When I was in elementary and middle school, I was really good at math. In elementary school, I would help out in summer school even though I didn't need to be there, because I was so good at math. In middle school I had really good grades in math. But, when I came to high school, it all became a blur. I would always quit if I didn't understand a problem, sometimes I wouldn't even try. I felt embarrassed, because I felt like everyone around me understood the math, but I didn't. I even used to try to do the problems, knowing I had the wrong answers, but I just went along with it to make it seem like I was doing something. This pattern really only happens at the beginning of the year when I really don't know everyone in my class, but then when I start talking to my classmates, it changes. This is when I am able to reach out and ask for help and get one-on-one time with the people around me. My biggest resource has been the students around me. When I ask my classmates for help, I can get that one-on-one attention I need because the teacher is busy helping the whole class. I say I improved, because now I understand more about math. And when I don't get something, now I try all different kinds of strategies. I am now able to solve a problem before I ask somebody for help. But now I don't give up on problems until I understand them.

Although math was a blur, I knew I had to get it done, whether it was by asking for help or trying to get it done. I now know that I am somebody who always tries and won't give up. I am not afraid to ask for help if I need it. Math might not be my best subject anymore, but I have proved that I can get through it. Next year I am going to City College. I know that I am going to have to take a math class in college no matter what I major in. Before I used to put everything before school, if I had social plans, I would not cancel them. But now, I know that if I need help, either I can ask people around me, I can ask my family, and I could stay after school. I know that I did not stay after too much at CAT, but I know now that in college if I do not keep up and ask for help I will be dropped from a class.