

962-D1-243

Aaron Montgomery (ogre47@alum.pomona.edu), Central Washington University. *Taking Variables Seriously*. Preliminary report.

Although many textbooks in algebra teach students how to manipulate variables, few spend much time trying to explain what a variable is. During the algebra course restructuring at Purdue University North Central, new materials were developed in an attempt to try to help students understand variables (as opposed to merely manipulate them). This talk will present some of this material as well as discuss methods being used to determine the efficacy of this new material.

(Received September 01, 2000)