1056-H7-486

Jack Bookman* (bookman@math.duke.edu), Mathematics Department, Box 90320, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708. Mathematics as a Subversive Activity – Questioning Authority and Promoting Independent Thinking.

Mathematics educators are often shy about talking about the issues of equity, diversity, and social justice in their classes for fear that they might be accused of indoctrinating their students or of being too "political." Yet, learning to think independently and to base conclusions on evidence and reason are both vital to the nature of mathematical reasoning AND to promoting social justice. We have all taught students who refuse to think for themselves, won't solve problems that don't match the template and can't decide if their answers are right or reasonable without an answer key. In this presentation, I will discuss how, by addressing these attitudes in mathematics class, we can get students to question authority and think independently. I will discuss how, every day in our classrooms, we can promote these qualities as virtues of mathematics and citizenship. (Received September 09, 2009)