

TEACHING STATEMENT

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I have been a teaching assistant for recitation sections at the university of Minnesota for many undergraduate courses. It is very exciting to see students understand mathematics better with my explanation. I enjoy teaching and consider it an essential part of my career.

I put more emphasis on the ability to analyze and think critically rather than the techniques to solve problems. I would like to give the students examples covering several topics, help them analyze the problems and apply the knowledge they have learned in a comprehensive way. I would also encourage the students to consider the problems from different points of view and solve the problems in various ways. Sometimes I even demonstrated a wrong solution on the board and discussed with the student about why the solution is incorrect.

From my teaching experience, I think it is crucial to communicate with the students. I thus not only frequently pose questions to the students, but also encourage the students to ask questions. Then I can find out the place where they are not clear and give more explanation on that point. Also I get to know what interests them from the questions and could get the students motivated to learn more mathematics. Furthermore, students usually come from diverse background. Some may already know the topics, whereas some may lack part of the prerequisite knowledge. Questions from the students can help me teach more effectively.

In addition, concepts in mathematics are usually abstract and students generally cannot accept these ideas from the lecture. So I like to use many concrete examples in my recitation sections. When I illustrate problems on the board, I always keep a slow pace so that the students have time to think for themselves rather than frantically copy down things to their notes.

Teaching is a wonderful experience for me. I try to not only help the students learn more practical knowledge, but also give them glimpses of the beauty of mathematics. I look forward to making mathematics a joyful student experience.