

SCI 199Y: Random Walks and Mathematical Discovery

Discussion questions, week 2.

Form a group of about 3 students. Decide who is **A**, **B**, and **C**. For each of the following statements, discuss (a) the extent to which you think that Johnson & Johnson would agree with it, and (b) the extent to which you agree with it. Be sure to discuss the reasons for your answers. Be sure that each member of the group is prepared to present your conclusions to the rest of the class.

1. It is important that everyone learn and value some mathematics.
2. It is more important to learn to reason mathematically, and to solve problems, than it is to memorize rules and formulas.
3. Cooperative learning can help to achieve the above two goals.
4. Learning mathematics is an active process.
5. Mathematics is best learned within cooperative learning groups.
6. It is possible to teach mathematics entirely through cooperative learning groups.

Assignment for next week:

Read the rest of the article “Cooperative Learning and Learning Mathematics”, by D.W. Johnson and R.T. Johnson. Also read the brief (two-page) excerpt from “Active Learning: Cooperation in the College Classroom”, by D.W. Johnson, R.T. Johnson, and K.A. Smith.

Be prepared to discuss and implement what you have read.