

SCI 199Y: Random Walks and Mathematical Discovery

Discussion questions, week 5.

You have read the (five-page) article “Using cooperative learning to teach statistics”, by L.V. Jones; and also the (six-page) excerpt about the Moore method from “I want to be a mathematician”, by P.R. Halmos.

You will be divided into groups of students. As a group, discuss the following questions.

1. What are the differences between the teaching methods described in these two studies? (List as many as you can.)
2. What are the similarities between the teaching methods described in these two studies? (List as many as you can.)
3. What claims do the authors make regarding the benefits of these teaching methods?
4. In your opinion, to what extent have the authors proven their claims?

Assignment for next week:

Read the eight pages of excerpts from “Overcoming Math Anxiety”, by Sheila Tobias. According to the author, what is “math anxiety”? Why is it a problem? How can it be overcome?