

Abstract

Thinking mathematically: developing manageable tasks for teachers

Lloyd Dawe and David Tynan

One of the difficulties in teaching and encouraging students to think mathematically is the demand to “get through” content in a restricted period of time. This demand is closely tied to assessment and reporting, usually across a whole year group. As a year 8 teacher this year, I continually felt the pressure to make sure my class had completed, and were confident with, the content to be assessed each term. The year was graded and there were expectations about how my students would perform. The result was that I very often sacrificed tasks which required students to think more deeply, with drill and practice. I found I needed enjoyable, purposeful and manageable tasks which would work within a short time period.

This presentation addresses that need. We will share some recently written innovative tasks for teachers who are interested in increasing the effectiveness of their students to think mathematically. The tasks have been written and trialled successfully as worksheets for students in stage 4, but could be adapted for stage 5. Teachers will have opportunity to work through the tasks, assess their suitability for their students, and how they could be adapted for their own needs.

The attached activities will be made available on the MANSW web page after the conference. It would be great to hear from any teacher who tries them out with their own students.

Lloyd Dawe

lloydawe1@optusnet.com.au