Putting Research to Work: Web-Based Instructor Support Materials for an Inquiry Oriented Abstract Algebra Curriculum

Abstract

For several years we have been researching students' and instructors' experiences with an inquiry-oriented group theory curriculum. This research has resulted in a number of insights; include findings that may be significant only for instructors and students engaged with this specific curriculum, as well as findings that appear to have broader significance. We are putting this research to work as we develop webbased instructor support materials to accompany the curriculum. These materials include 1) information about the rationale for each task/sequence, 2) insights about student thinking related to the task/sequence, and 3) discussion of task/sequence implementation considerations. In this presentation we will share some of our findings (both general and specific) and illustrate how we have incorporated these findings into the web-based instructor support materials in the form of text, videoclips, and images culled from our research efforts.

Key Words: abstract algebra, curriculum, teaching, student thinking