

Speaker:

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Position: PhD Candidate

Title: "Can you write a good problem from this?"

Intended Audience: Post-Secondary

Type of Presentation

Preferred: Long Presentation (60 minutes)

Description:

I put a picture of a simple geometric object up on my office door with the words "Can you write a good problem from this picture?" Two people came to me with very different ideas, neither of which I had considered, but both were wa-a-a-ay more interesting than the solution methods I had seen for the problem when it was written in the standard way, "Calculate the...". Now, I know that undergraduate students are capable of doing problems like this one - problems which are much more sophisticated than the exercises that they are used to. Is it worth it to swap out some of the standard school problems for problems of this type?

I am getting pretty good at massaging a geometry problem so that it appears to be more of an adventure than a walk down the sidewalk. But only geometry problems! I have less luck with other types of problems. How easy is it to do this to non-geometric problems?

I have more problems of this type that I will bring along for us to play with. Bring yours too!