

Electronic Seminar on Mathematics Education

Ask. Don't tell.

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In an ideal world, when a student asks for help with a math problem, we do not answer directly. We help them realize what is confusing them and we help them solve the problem by themselves.

From the perspective of a beginning instructor (or TA), this is easier said than done. How do you do it exactly? What if the student does not cooperate? What if they just answer "I do not know" to anything we ask? What if they grow impatient or resent me?

"Ask. Don't tell" is a training session we developed at the University of Toronto for our TAs. We use real student questions gathered from the online fora of our courses, and we see what actually happened, so nobody can argue that we are not being realistic.

I will demonstrate this session during the EMES seminar.

If at all possible, please make plans to attend this seminar with at least one other person in the same room. You will enjoy the seminar better, and you will get more out of it that way.



Image by Bernardo Sousa

Nov 13, 2018
12:00 - 1:00 ET

To join the seminar, go to
<https://zoom.us/j/8803591328>

For more information on EMES:
<http://math.mit.edu/seminars/emes/>