Darren Gopaul

MAT1475H

Prof. K. Poirier

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**Self-Reflection**

Mathematics has always been one of the biggest impacts on my life. Growing up as a child, my passion for math and science surpassed any of my other classes. My first mathematical memory consists of me counting the amount of grasshoppers I caught. People I knew called me the bug man, even though ironically I am afraid of most today. Every day after school, I used to come home, go in the grassy backyard, collect as many as I could, and just count them in my jar while laying down looking at the clouds.

My relationship to mathematics both inside the classroom and outside the class was fairly different. When it came to my classes, I tried to give my attention evenly to all of them, but the excitement that math bought to the table was to over whelming and not boring like the rest. Working with numbers, adding, subtracting, gave me that urge to keep doing it over and over. Working outside the classroom was a bit different. I used the math I learned to apply it to my everyday life, like counting the amount of money we spent weekly on groceries to even planning how long I was going to do what similar to a “ To Do List”.

My relationship to math has changed over a number of years. For instance, being expected to be good in math by my father has made me focus more on it rather than my other subjects. My father was a great support/teacher when it came to mathematics. Even though he never attended college, I must say he knew his stuff. His teachings and encouragement played a major role in making me truly gain that passion for math. Another example would be just learning new material in general. Most people are afraid that when they learn something new they won’t understand it and fall behind, but I consider it a challenge. Even if I didn’t understand, the teacher or my friends were there to explain it to me. You should never be too shy or afraid to ask for help when you really need it when it’s benefiting you in a good way.

The biggest challenge I faced was probably in my Calculus Honors class. I must say it was the toughest class I took by far in math. Working with topics such as limits, derivatives weren’t a problem, but proceeding to topics such as Related Rates and Optimization confused me a bit. If it wasn’t for the kindness of my math Professor Kate Poirier deciding to change it up a bit towards the end of the semester I might of failed the course in general. I also couldn’t have come this far without the help of my friends guiding me into understanding the topics better and would like to thank them. Hopefully, I can pass her final, since I’m taking Calculus Honors right now (Spring 2014).

My Greatest successes would have to be when I was given the honor to be valedictorian in elementary school for 8th grade and salutatorian in high school for my senior year. I believe my math grades gave me the opportunity to do these things. Even though I wasn’t fond of giving speeches, since I’m a shy person, it made me be less insecure, and more confident in myself. Using all the tools I have learned so far and will learn from math, I hope to apply it to everything I can, even if it will take hard work and sacrifice to accomplish the goal.