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UTA Final Reflection

I had a really great experience while participating in the UTA program. As part of the UTA program, I had to engage with mathematics in a way that is different than how I normally would. While working with students during class and office hours, each student may need help in a slightly different way. This allowed me to learn how to look at mathematics from different perspectives. As I worked with different students, I was able to see their different perspectives and had new ideas on how to engage with mathematics.

Not only did work with the students help me think about different ways to engage with mathematics, so did our seminar activities. Through presentations given by my fellow UTA's, I learned about different ways math can apply to real world applications such as parking a car. Not only has my experience in the UTA program increased and changed how I engage with mathematics, but has helped me improve my communication skills especially when talking about mathematics. We did several presentations and received constructive and helpful feedback from our peers and had conversations about how to communicate math for both our own benefit and the benefit of our students.

I had not realized how important communication skills are in mathematics and how to improve mine. Focusing on our communication skills not only helped while working as a UTA, but also in my own academic career. It has helped me better understand my professors while they are teaching and allows me to ask better questions. Being able to ask clearer questions allows me to get the answers that I need in order to do better in my own classes. Communication wasn't the only skill I gained through our UTA seminar classes.

I also learned about applications, graduate school, and other areas of study related to mathematics. This was one of the most impactful parts of the UTA experience because it prompted me to think about my future in or with mathematics. The UTA program has helped me grow as a student of mathematics and helped me learn how to better help others. Our practice with presentations and communication increased my confidence in these areas. My peers were always supportive and despite the fact that we have all taken different levels of math classes and have different backgrounds. I'm glad I was able to work with people who have taken higher level math classes and people who have different experiences than I do.

I would definitely recommend the UTA program to other undergraduate students. I learned so much through the seminars and the class I worked with. This program helped me learn more about how I relate to mathematics, how others relate to mathematics, and all of the possibilities that mathematics offers.