

<b>Description: Romina Interview Reflections II (12<sup>th</sup> Grade): Mathematics is Everywhere Date: 1999-07-21 Location: David Brearley High School Researcher: Professor Carolyn Maher</b>	<b>Transcriber(s): Steffero, Maria Verifier(s): Yedman, Madeline Date Transcribed: Fall 2010 Page: 1 of 2</b>
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- 1 R1 Maybe you should tell me is there anything you would like to you say that we have not been asking you about about this experience?
- 2 Romina I I think it was a good experience over all I don't know it just for us we don't know why we all have very low self esteem about everything and we didn't think we were capable we were very scared coming to this two weeks cause we thought a lot was expected from us and we were not going to be able to perform under all the pressure but I don't know we came out we I think we did I don't know what do you guys think while we came and we did a lot of problem solving we did a lot of thinking like we just sat and thought for hours a day and we came up with a lot of interesting things and we were able to go in front of a large audience and just talk about our ideas and then argue our points and prove our points so I think it was a very good experience
- 3 R1 Would you feel more comfortable if people reassured you more about whether you were on the right track, not on the right track or do you feel
- 4 Romina That's um almost I don't know I don't like being reassured in like the problem like I look for reassurance but if they gave it to me it's almost like they're like they're treating me like a little child like you're good keep going with that keep on going like that this is like when we do come up with something it's so much better because we came up by ourselves without someone holding our hand and walking us through it like they if they walk us through it but yea we are going to get to the right answer but if they do this they don't know what's going to happen what direction we are going to take so it makes it all the better.
- 5 R1 So this problem that you brought up about self esteem is really a big problem in math that especially like a lot of people feel you know they're not good in math and whether they are good or not they should sometimes feel they're not good I mean I mean if you were to advise a teacher on how you would build up someone's self-esteem in math do you have any thoughts on that?
- 6 Romina It's hard though because math is just so different I think there's two big different areas of math: one of them is like the thinking involved and one of them is just like spitting out numbers. I know I was never good at the spitting out the number thing and everything but I was decent at the thinking about it. If they can incorporate both of those into one and so I think most kids either go on one track or the other and if they can they if the teacher has both of them in a class the kids are bound to do one or the other, like you think he can do math for the time being
- 7 R1 If you were to make um if you were talking to someone who just wasn't

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familiar with what math is maybe there is some older generation someone who has not had the opportunities you had you know what what how you define math I mean what is mathematics?

- 8 Romina I don't know. It's just so - I think it's problem solving. It's taking up a lot of things into consideration coming up with a reasonable answer to something or solution. It's nothing - math is just so vague and in so many areas of something it's everywhere unfortunately like it's like everywhere you can't get away from it - it's everywhere you can find and every situation you could possibly think of you always think of probability, cause and effect things and that's math
- 9 R1 I think I think a lot of people think of math as arithmetic the number adding part and all that
- 10 Romina I think that's what scares most people away from math the fact that they think it's just like long division or something and its not that it's just you have to apply it to different things and it's so much so...I think that if you just open and you keep opening math up like this for everybody eventually we are going to have a good math background and enough to do what we can do.