

Description: Romina Interview Reflections I (11th Grade): Everything has Romina's Definition Date: 1999-05-18 Location: David Brearley High School Researcher: Professor Carolyn Maher	Transcriber(s): Steffero, Maria Verifier(s): Yedman, Madeline Date Transcribed: Fall 2010 Page: 1 of 2
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- 1 0:00 Romina I think kids would be able to do more.
- 2 T/R1 Repeat the question.
- 3 Romina If people learned the way I did with, like, group talking, I think people would learn more and be able to do more because if someone that was taught with just a teacher teaching them, if you're given something in, like, the real world, you're not going to know how to handle it. Whereas I would probably question it, and like, throw different ideas in the air. Other people, they get intimidated, and they don't know how to do that. And, like, if they're not specifically told, and you can't live your whole life being told what to do. You're going to eventually have to do it yourself. And they're going to have more knowledge about everything. Because everything I do I understand, because it's more than just numbers to me. It's like you have to go deeper, you have to, if you understand something from the beginning, you're going to always understand it. You can't forget something like that. And like an equation, I don't really know any equations. It's like things, I don't know any solid equations, but I could explain to you something and work from there. And you're likely to forget an equation.
- 4 T/R1 You mean a rule?
- 5 Romina A rule, or just like anything. Yeah, that's what I meant.
- 6 T/R2 When did you realize - in all the years you were doing this, when did you realize that you were starting to get something different from this?
- 7 Romina Probably my freshman year, when I went to a different school, and I saw how everyone else was taught, and what everyone else knew about math. I got through most of my tests, because I went back to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, and what I learned then, and what I could put together. I taught myself, basically, that year, from what I knew. Whereas other kids did really badly in the class. The rest of my class did really bad, because they weren't used to that. They looked to the book for answers. And they didn't understand the book, and the teacher wouldn't help them. They were lost. And they couldn't do anything for themselves.
- 8 T/R3 But why do you say you're not confident in your abilities?
- 9 Romina I'm not confident because, I know I can do a lot, and I can do it. But when I try to explain to a person what I know, I can't explain to you what I know. They might throw out, "Oh, do you know this rule, and this guy and all this stuff?" and I'm like, "No, but if you sit me down, maybe I

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know do know it.” But I know it in my way, not in their way. And everything I explain is in my words, not in anyone else’s words. It’s not from some mathematician from thousands of years ago, because I don’t know that. Like I didn’t know what the pyramid – Pascal’s - was called. I just know everything in my own way. Everything has Romina’s definition to it.