

Discussion questions for:

Pre-reading: “A Mathematician’s Lament” by Paul Lockhart (2002),
retrieved from https://www.maa.org/external_archive/devlin/LockhartsLament.pdf

1. How could/might school mathematics be taught using a pedagogical approach similar to the way music and art usually are (when they are taught well)?

2. Lockhart says, “The first thing to understand is that mathematics is an art.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. Which of the following two ways of introducing thinking about triangles do you think students would find more interesting and engaging? Why?
 - a. Imagine a triangle inside a rectangular box... I wonder how much of the box the triangle takes up.

 - b. The area of a triangle is equal to one half its base times its height. Memorise this formula and then answer questions 1 to...

4. Why do you think this essay was used as the pre-reading for a professional learning module called “What is a rich task?”?