

1145-J1-2733

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Embodied Venn Diagrams: Bringing Sets to Life. Preliminary report.

At the 2016 MAA MathFest, Dr. Hortensia Soto (University of Northern Colorado) introduced me to using embodied activities in the classroom. By having students take on the role of the object(s) they are studying, embodied activities afford them the opportunity to experience those concepts and challenge them to develop a deeper understanding of the related definitions. My experiences have shown that these assignments promote student engagement, allow students to struggle productively within a safe environment, and support student success.

In this talk, I will share how I created my own embodied activities for studying Venn Diagrams. In two different courses (one aimed at majors and the other aimed at non-majors), I have had students take on the role of elements as they explore and develop their understanding of Venn Diagrams. We will discuss these activities and different materials used. I will also share how student feedback was utilized to make improvements on new activities and some important lessons learned. (Received September 25, 2018)