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Why Learn Math?

In elementary school, most often, the materials taught in class intrigued and amazed the majority of my classmates and me; we wished to learn to use crayons, know the correct pronunciation of words, figure out rhymes, color within the lines, and etc. We endlessly inquired. As curious as George, we occupied ourselves with the assigned activities and our education; we asked a river of questions, though never doubted nor whined about the work. We simply absorbed like sponges.

As others and I aged and entered middle school then soon after, high school, I noticed that students yearned to grow up and take part in the world of the adults. Due to this desire to mature quickly, restlessness caused many of my classmates, and even me at times, to look down upon our instruction instead of accepting it with gratitude.

Last year, in my geometry class, when in the middle of a lesson about geometric proofs, one of my peers sitting near the Smart Board complained: "Mr. Mackey! How in the world will proving the congruency of triangles help us later in life?" Mr. Mackey, facing the wall and pinning tips about theorems near the window, turned his head slightly. We all saw the corners of his mouth rise, but he chose to remain silent. Then the student grumbled, "Uh huh, of course it won't." Honestly, I somewhat agreed with the boy; I recollect believing that geometric proofs held no relation to our future lives. My former classmate and I thought wrong.

Last month, as I reflected upon the connection between pre-college academics and the mastery of actual professions, I came to realize that even geometric proofs hold an important skill to grasp in a job. Surprisingly, a non-mathematical job. Our education manages to intertwine and determine our future in the most unexpected ways.

Since I enjoy listening and participating in discussions in order to hear more about unique perspectives and approaches to a problem and find interest in applying my academic knowledge to lifelike situations, I lean towards studying the law and becoming a corporate lawyer. Until this moment, I assumed that the top law schools in the United States focused on accepting students with outstanding grades, community service, etc., because they reached very high expectations. Though true, the reason specifically remains firm on the academic side, because of the numerous subjects one must exceed at; each and every one of these teach one to nourish and expand the niches in his/her capabilities. Therefore, this explains why math definitely plays an important role in a career – for a lawyer.

First of all, accepting a law-related scholarly path demands basic arithmetic knowledge; a lawyer works with computations, because one handles money, interest rates, percentages, proportions, and etc. in a lawsuit. However, of these requirements, critical thinking skills are the superior proficiencies and dominate all others. People question the relation of mathematics and the law, but a strong common point between them is their objectivity. Subjectivity does not present itself in math and also tries not to in the law. Therefore, one needs the aptitude of writing accurate and unbiased analyses. Using deductive logic, prosecutors gather and select evidence worthy of their argument and case – without the ability to spot weak ones, one cannot succeed in this field. Since such educated beings frequently formulate reports about their cases, I am guessing that they excelled at composing geometric proofs when in middle school; they can

undoubtedly extract the necessary evidence from the givens of a geometrical figure to utilize in their logical reasoning, supported by theorems, which leads to a well-written proof. Furthermore, not only does the process of completing a geometrical proof aid an individual in creating a concise and persuasive account as a lawyer, but also, it rationalizes an attorney's mind when others attempt to sell one false narratives during an ongoing trial; the ability to assemble these mathematical proofs maximizes one's potential to evaluate a statement, with the help of solid evidence and known postulates, and to effectively defend oneself and/or cripple the opposing side's claim in a tense courthouse. Interestingly enough, theorems and laws share the same function; people apply them at different times, depending on the situation, but with the aim to reach a conclusion, to solve a problem, etc. These "goals" hover in the same direction; theorems, with mathematical information and background, lead to a claim, and laws judge actions to resolve a conflict. Both share this similarity of in a way, solving a problem, which unfortunately, goes unnoticed too often.

Growing up is about a stable foundation, which my education promises to grant. The hardship and doubts that linger are incomparable to the success my effort to learn will help me attain in the long run. Though a moderation of questions is beneficial and favorable, energy is better spent making accomplishments, rather than wasting time and air criticizing. Never will I question geometry's or any other academic subject's usefulness, at least not before a reflection such as this. Every ounce of hardship I face, through educational and everyday-life experiences, will impact my career path, life choices – my future. Why *not* learn math if it already is incorporated in a lawyer's workload? No reason. Some think math takes absence at times, but in reality, it *is* everywhere, so one just needs to be expecting it around every corner.