

1086-G5-1260 **C Ray Rosentrater*** (rosentr@westmont.edu), Westmont College, 955 La Paz Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93108. *A Geometry-first Introduction to Determinants.*

This presentation explores the benefits of a geometry-first introduction to determinants. When the usual algebraic definition of the determinant is preceded by a geometric introduction using elementary row operations, it is easier to motivate both the algebraic definition and the related theorems. Students better understand the theory through the geometry. (Received September 20, 2012)