Helping Bridge Course Students Begin to Write Proofs. Preliminary report.

We propose a six level framework to understand the stages students go through in order to develop and write a proof. We compare and contrast this framework with some other common ideas surrounding the teaching and learning of proof in the literature. Next, we give an example to illustrate how the framework can be used in the selection and design of classroom activities that help students in a bridge course move between the levels. Results of one such activity are given as supporting evidence for the relevance of the framework. (Received September 22, 2005)