

1077-D5-2589      **Rejoice Mudzimiri\*** (mudzimir@math.montana.edu), 101 Peter Koch Tower, Bozeman, MT  
59715. *The Power of Symbolic Spreadsheets.*

Researchers have suggested that spreadsheets in general can support students in developing an understanding of variables. The availability of symbolic spreadsheets (spreadsheet that allow for the manipulation of variables) has the capacity to enhance explorations, visualization, pattern recognition and ultimately conceptual understanding. In this presentation I will use the TI-Nspire symbolic spreadsheet to demonstrate three pedagogical principles: ‘wastefulness’, variation or parameterization, and generalization using a ‘simple’ word problem. The activity is adapted from a senior capstone course for high school mathematics teachers. (Received September 22, 2011)