

1106-E5-2315 **Erika L. Ward*** (eward1@ju.edu). *Peanut Butter and Jelly Guy: Audience, Correctness, and Revision in a Proofs Course.*

In Mathematics and Reasoning, the introduction to proofs course at Jacksonville University, I told my students a story about how difficult it can be to write precise directions in English as a way to discuss how and why the language of Mathematics allows us to be more precise.

Unexpectedly, the students adopted a character from the story, and named him Peanut Butter and Jelly Guy. His presence in the classroom allowed the students and I to change their discussion of the entire process of proof writing in profound ways. He added distance and levity to discussions of audience, correctness, and revision – topics that can be difficult for students to internalize. Because PBJ Guy was a bit ridiculous and silly, he enabled students to take themselves less seriously and to laugh at themselves. This made them better able to figure out how to give and take criticism usefully, and thus to become better writers and mathematicians. (Received September 16, 2014)