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Emphasizing Mathematical Definitions in a College Algebra Course. Preliminary report.

Definitions play a critical role in mathematics. Unfortunately, many undergraduate students do not recognize their importance. Compounding this, definitions and their roles may not be emphasized in lower division mathematics courses. Students' lack of understanding of mathematical definitions can lead to difficulties in current and future mathematics courses. In this project, we taught a college algebra course using a variety of activities designed to emphasize mathematical definitions. Further, we assessed the impact of these activities on students' abilities to work with novel definitions and solve standard computational problems. In this presentation, we will describe some of these classroom activities and discuss the results of our assessment. (Received September 12, 2014)