

# Research Briefs: Improving College Students' Attitudes Toward Mathematics

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# RESEARCH BRIEFS

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## Improving College Students' Attitudes Toward Mathematics

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### Abstract

Students' attitudes toward mathematics have been a subject of interest and research for many years. A student's attitude toward mathematics can effect mathematics achievement, decisions to drop out of a class, and even career choices. In online mathematics courses a poor attitude toward mathematics can translate into a lack of engagement in the course, which is particularly important in online courses. This article describes an experiment conducted to enhance college students' attitudes toward mathematics in an online mathematics course. The experiment resulted in a positive change in attitudes toward mathematics.

### Practical Application

The treatment materials created for this experiment consisted of a short video explaining the everyday usefulness of some of the mathematics concepts that students would be learning in the course. The video was created by exporting a narrated slideshow, created with Apple's Keynote, to an online movie format. This type of video can be created easily with tools like Microsoft PowerPoint or Apple's Keynote. Since these tools are ubiquitous in education settings, and there are many free tools for editing and hosting online videos, the ideas presented in this paper should be accessible to many instructors at no monetary cost.

### Citation

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