

Introducing Proof Using Formal Systems

Justin Lanier
Princeton Learning Cooperative
Princeton, NJ

I blog: www.ichoosemath.com and www.mathmunch.org
I tweet: @j_lanier
I email: justin.lanier@gmail.com

Resources from this presentation can be found at: ichoosemath.com/formalsystems

Here are some reflection questions to warm up with. Jot down your thoughts if you like.

What are your experiences and associations with “proof”?

How do proofs fit in your classroom? How do you introduce them?

How do you think about the difference between a proof and a problem?

If you teach middle school, how does the math you teach hit upon or foreshadow important algebraic and geometric ideas from the high school curriculum? If you teach high school, discuss the relative importance of formal proof and geometric transformations in your classes.

Now try out the problems on the next page! →