

## Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2006-11/msg05767.html>

---

- *From:* [jstevh@xxxxxxx](mailto:jstevh@xxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* 21 Nov 2006 22:58:27 -0800
- 

sg552@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

James Harris wrote:

Why? I was probably in a lot of stupid arguments and posting very fast as I usually do, and said something wrong.

You are missing the point. The fact that you said something wrong is not, by itself, what makes the thread such revealing reading. What makes it such revealing reading just how condescending you were to those people who had the gall to point out that you were wrong. For example:

"Well, I take this as evidence that your intellect has been compromised by your emotions.

"I figured only the novices would find a problem with that statement."

also:

"Wow, do any of you call yourselves mathematicians?"

There you were, not only making statements that were laughably wrong, but talking down to the very people whose job it is to know these things. What's even more amazing, though, is how little you've learnt from the incident. Despite such a clear example of you mouthing off in a manner that demonstrates breathtaking ignorance, and insulting those people who know better than you, you nonetheless continue to behave in the exact same manner on a daily basis, even to this day.

It's all part of extreme mathematics.

That's a lot of what makes it extreme.

I do BRAINSTORMING which means that you just spit stuff out, and get lots of things wrong, even stupidly wrong, as you're not being very

Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

critical as you type.

Brainstorming is a valid excuse for posting crap ideas, so long as you accept that they are crap when it is explained to you. It is not an excuse for posting ignorance.

Who knows what exactly was running through my mind at the time, I don't remember.

It's called "idiocy".

Brainstorming is a lot about releasing the critical mechanism of the mind so that you can come up with new ideas.

But you weren't coming up with new ideas. You were coming up with old definitions – definitions that are well known to any competent high-school student – and getting them hilariously wrong.

–Rotwang

Clearly you have your continuing need to try and find some way to insult me for doing exactly what I've described I do.

I brainstorm.

The critical mechanisms are relaxed. You just kind of go with the flow, even if that flow means you are thinking something very wrong.

The process is skewed here on newsgroups because of people like you who come in with harsh criticisms, so you are critical where the point of the process is not having a lot of critical feedback early on.

I have handled that various ways, some not so well, and over the years I've learned better ways.

But whether you like brainstorming or not, it is a known technique in MODERN problem solving, and the way posters like yourself go on and on despite my talking about it so much, you clearly do not do modern problem solving.

And why should you? The academic math world today is a dinosaur that refuses to accept that it should be extinct, so it blunders on.

The way posters got excited about some error of mine despite my already having talked about brainstorming is an excellent demonstration of how

Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

Re: JSH: Questioning certainty

alien modern problem solving is to math people of today.

To you mistakes are all that matter.

To me, mistakes are just along the way...

James Harris

.