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Concretising factorisation of quadratic expressions.

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Summary: The way quadratic factorisation was usually taught to students in Bukit View Secondary was through the familiar “cross-method.” However, some teachers felt that a significant number of students could not use the method effectively even after careful demonstration through repeated examples. In addition, many secondary mathematics teachers find it a challenge to teach factorisation of quadratic expressions to students who have weak foundations in algebra. As such, a “Lesson Study” team was formed comprising the authors in this paper with the aims of identifying students’ difficulties and devising ways to help them improve in their proficiency. This paper describes the project the authors embarked on to help students who have been generally unsuccessful in the topic to gain greater proficiency in the concepts and skills involved with quadratic factorisation. (Contains 9 figures and 4 footnotes.) (ERIC)

Classification: H33

Keywords: elementary algebra; quadratic equations; manipulation of expressions; solving equations; pretests posttests

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