Transcript: Approach 1 – Finding a Counterexample

Professional Development for Inservice Teachers
University of Michigan School of Education
Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Seating Arrangement

Megan			Rachel
Tamala			Brendan
Pete			Edie
Josh			Sherri
Anne			Liz
Martina			Valerie

Shawn · Jennifer · Maria · Jackie · Tonya · Seth

May 29, 2012:

Justifying True-False Statements

Decide whether the following statements are true or false and develop a clear justification for your conclusion.

b) All polygons with four straight connected sides are quadrilaterals.
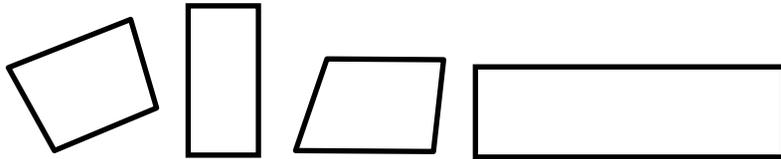
1 2 3	Edie:	I always sort of took the path of trying to prove it to be false, and when I couldn't, I would figure out if it was true.
4	Facilitator:	You tried to prove it to be false?
5	Edie:	Yes.
6	Facilitator:	So how did you go about trying to prove it to be false?
7 8	Edie:	Well I was trying to draw one that wasn't a quadrilateral. Could I make it a shape that had-
9	Facilitator:	That had what? So what did it have to have?
10 11 12 13	Edie:	It needed to have four sides, but- and connected. But could I draw one that wasn't necessarily four straight sides? So could I draw one where necessarily the sides weren't completely straight? More of an angle.
14 15	Facilitator:	Do people understand what Edie is saying? So what was Edie's approach? Can someone summarize that?
16	Participant:	She kind of did the converse. Is that-
17	Shawn:	Or disprove it?
18	Edie:	I was trying to disprove it.
19 20	Facilitator:	And do you understand what she was doing to try to disprove it? What was it?
21	Anne:	Make them to be straight and connected.
22	Facilitator:	I can't quite hear you. What?
23 24	Anne:	Make them to be straight and connected, but not a quadrilateral.