

1077-E1-2108 **H. Smith Risser*** (hrisser@mtech.edu). *Putting Mathematics Education Controversies in Historical Context.*

Many current controversies in mathematics education have deep historical roots. During a one semester history of mathematics course, students learned about the historical roots of several educational controversies using historical mathematical documents, commentaries on historical documents, and opinions from both educators and mathematicians. In this talk, three specific educational controversies presented in the course will be discussed: whether computational tools or computational algorithms are superior, whether abstract mathematics is less valuable than mathematics employed for a practical purpose, and whether symbolic representation should play a role in the introduction of mathematical concepts. The historical roots of each controversy will be presented along with bibliographies of the resources used for each topic. Although the presentation will focus on a history of mathematics course, the materials presented could be used in a wide range of courses including methods courses for preservice mathematics teachers and liberal arts mathematics courses. (Received September 21, 2011)