Researcher: When you are struggling what steps are you taking to help yourself?
BJ30: I'll ask someone to help me, and if they can't help me, then basically I just leave it until...
Researcher: Alright, and who is this someone who you will ask?
Researcher: Is there anything else that you would like to say about Mathematics?
BJ30: No.
Researcher: There is just a few last questions. Are you planning on taking Mathematics until Grade 12?
BJ30: If I stay in this school I can.
Researcher: Why would you like to take Mathematics until Grade 12?
BJ30: Well I have to take Mathematics, because of the career choices that I have made.
Researcher: Okay, Do you feel you were prepared well in Primary School for Mathematics in High School?
BJ30: In Primary School yes, but in Grade 7 I went to a different school, and that's when I tried to impress all the kids so that I could be accepted. And that's when I started to do badly in Mathematics.
Researcher: Thank you very much.

Average Performer Learners’ Interviews

1.

Interview Transcript: BH15
Researcher: BH15, how do you feel about Mathematics?
BH15: Umm, well both primary school because primary school, I was... was like top of the class in Mathematics. In the last year when I came to Reunion it was like okay a bit of a challenge for me because sometimes I would not understand any. And I thought that if I just practice with myself it with something I will get it.
Researcher: So do you feel that maths in high school is more difficult than that in primary school?
BH15: No, I actually think it is actually more advanced than primary school Mathematics.
Researcher: What will you say about your preparation in primary school for high school Mathematics, was it sufficient, what is you're feelings about it?
BH15: Okay my maths teacher didn't prepare me that much for high school maths because I will say it was a lack of communication with us cause they just he will say, "Okay guys here is the work if you need some explanation I will explain it to you". But it wasn't more challenging.
Researcher: How do you feel about your ability to do math?
Researcher: Do you believe that you can do maths?

BH15: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: Why do you say so?

BH15: Because maths is not a difficult subject you just need to know all the rules of maths and you must like teach yourself to find other formulas and other solutions of solving the maths problem.

Researcher: Then in grade 8 you just your promotion mark was 86%, how do you feel about your performance in grade 8?

BH15: The performance in grade 8 was not that good it was not that bad but it was in the middle. So I feel a bit disappointed in myself because I know I could do better. If only I've asked the teacher to help me and attended the extra lessons.

Researcher: Right, how did you manage in last year's end exams paper?

BH15: I feel bad about it. But, I wasn't that confident I didn't believe in myself that I've passed. If only I've asked the teacher, if my answer corresponds with the teacher's answer then I see okay I can do maths on my own.

Researcher: Right, and are you planning to take mathematics up to grade 12?

BH15: Yes.

Researcher: Why?

BH15: I love maths from primary school so I thought that maths is challenging in high school maybe I should give myself that challenge to do also or trying to do it. Is there anything you would, if someone ask about mathematics, what will you tell them?

Researcher: Mathematics is not a difficult subject it is a lack subject it is not like, how can I say it. You have to find different solutions to like, that's like, like real life. You lose people add more people. It's all fun and complicated but have to learn the basics of maths so to find your way out.

Researcher: Right, and tell me do you think you can study for maths?

BH15: Yes ma'am, you can study through practice.

Researcher: Thank you very much.

BH15: Pressure ma'am.

3. Interview Transcript: BH34

Researcher: BH34: Good Afternoon. How do you feel about Mathematics?

BH34: Ma'am I love maths, the very easy thing which makes you to think a lot for you to understand. And do you like the challenge that it sets?

Researcher: Yes ma'am, it helps you to work out problems in different ways so that you understand them better.

BH34: And then will you say that it helps you work out problems do you think that it also enables you to work out everyday problems that you encounter in your life that it helps you with problem solving?

BH34: Yes ma'am it does.

Researcher: And why do you say so?

BH34: Ma'am the stages you need to like see different sides to a story and in mathematics there is always a plus and a minus to the sum.

Researcher: And how do you feel about your abilities to do mathematics?

BH34: Ma'am I'm quite positive cause if you tend to love mathematics it gets easier to understand like I can do well.

Researcher: And do you think your confidence has an influence on your performance in mathematics?

BH34: Yes ma'am when I feel I can do something I do it most case.

Researcher: And when you encounter a very difficult problem that you struggling with how does that make you feel?

BH34: Ma'am I just go to a teacher and ask for help and then she or after I've learned the strategy I can do it as well.

Researcher: So you not afraid to go to a teacher?

BH34: No I'm not.

Researcher: And if, if you find something difficult where do you prefer to go to the teacher or friends and why?

BH34: Ma'am I ask my friends we usually work together but if ever my friends and I can't work it out I go to a teacher and then she or after I've learned the strategy I can do it as well.

Researcher: And can you explain mathematical problems to your friends with confidence?

BH34: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: Okay and then do they come to you if they have problems?

BH34: Yes ma'am we do, mostly our work as a group so that we understand it better and make different ideas.

Researcher: Do you think mathematics works when you do it in group work?

BH34: Yes ma'am I do.

Researcher: Right, do you believe that you can do maths well and explain why you say so?

BH34: Yes ma'am, maths is a subject there, It needs practice and you with more practice you will do way better. So that's where...

Researcher: Then let us see what you did last year in grade 8. You got 59% for promotion marks. How do you feel about your performance in grade 8?

BH34: Ma'am I not lab glid about it but it was not that bad, I could have done at least 70% as that was what I was aiming for.

Researcher: Alright, how do feel about this year in mathematics?

BH34: This year ma'am I'm very confident about it, it's really nice. It's almost stare a, a studied subject.
3. Interview Transcript: BN37

Interview with BN37: how do you feel about Mathematics?

BN37: I actually do like Maths. It's quite interesting because every exercise that we do to every question each year is challenging in itself. It's just that I have to sit down and actually look at it try them before coming to the right number.

Researcher: I see that last year your promotion mark was 65% which is a good mark. How do you feel about that mark?

BN37: I don't find it a good mark at all.

Researcher: So you feel it was not good, why?

BN37: I could have done better. It's just that I found something; something was very hard because mainly the explanations we were given was, you don't follow through doing them, and you, I found very, it was very hard actually.

Researcher: Do you think that a teacher's ability to explain the maths has an influence on what you need?

BN37: Yes, ma'am.

Researcher: Do you have the same teacher this year as last year?

BN37: No ma'am.

Researcher: Do you feel that it makes a difference?

BN37: A huge difference. I'm actually enjoying Maths, it's putting a smile on my face like when I look at an equation and you know that you have the answer because the teacher explained.

BN37: I think the teacher is the one who's actually academically challenging could find a answer to, so yes ma'am.

Researcher: Do you think that he showed in your mark?

BN37: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: And how do you feel about your ability to do maths?

BN37: It's questionable, can I say that?

Researcher: Yes, why do you say that?

BN37: Umm because at times I apply myself in the manner that it's more than in my other test but I get... how can I say it, marks that aren't to my satisfaction and at times I find other test are much more simple than the other ones. So I think... I can do better but at the same time I think it is out of my hands because I don't understand, I don't understand umm then when umm find it challenging.

Researcher: Do you think that you do not get, basically you don't get the marks according to the efforts that you put in to maths? Let me just put this way, do you think you put in more effort and that the amount of efforts that you do put in should produce a higher mark than you currently get?

BN37: No ma'am.

Researcher: Do you think that you reap what you sow?

BN37: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: Do you think that your confidence levels have an influence on your performance on mathematics?

BN37: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: Why do you say that?

BN37: Because at times I get, I get a sum and I look at it and I think it is so difficult that I don't myself if I can get the right answer or whether I'm actually going to do it and I find it actually easy; then putting some negative thoughts in my head and my confidence is deteriorating so I start to think it is actually harder than it actually is.

Researcher: Do you think that you think maths is harder than it is that it actually umm brings down your levels and your ability to actually get to the right answer?

BN37: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: Do you think that if you change your mindset that it would help you to arrive at the correct answer?

BN37: Yes ma'am; I do.

Researcher: And when you face a difficult problem in maths, how does that makes you feel?

BN37: I feel like I literally stuck, I feel helpless. I wait for the teacher to actually catch up, so that she can explain it further to me. I feel
that if I don't do well that I can actually literally fail my grades, so yeah I think it is a difficult challenge seriously bring down everything in me, it brings down my mindset, it brings down my confidence in a manner that I that I can't do maths at all.

Researcher: And if you get stuck and you can't solve the problem. Do you wait for the teacher to pick up that you are stuck or are you actually willing to go to the table and ask for help?

SN37: That's good. Can you explain any mathematical problems maybe difficult problems or easy problems to your peers?

SN37: I find it to explain the most difficult ones a bit easiest where I find the easier ones challenging.

Researcher: Why?

SN37: I don't know why.

Researcher: Don't know why?

SN37: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: Do you believe that you can do maths?

SN37: Yes ma'am.

Researcher: Why?

SN37: How can I put it, umm yeah, I believe I can do maths. I do because I can and I apply these serious issues I sit myself down and I look at a test and I look at test book and everything and the tests come back with marks that I actually willing to say that I'm very very good in terms of, of me of the amount of effort I put here. That, yes I do believe if I do belief in terms of that.

Researcher: How do you feel about your performances last year when you were in grade 9?

SN37: I felt that I seriously will do this, I thought I could do extraordinary extraordinarily better than I did in Grade 8.

Researcher: Why did you feel you could have done better?

SN37: I would, I would, I will have to admit that I played a bit because in terms of... in terms of work that was given to us that also ensure an amount of portfolio I use to think Ugh come on nothing big if I can get this my, my exams my tests, my cycle tests can boost up my marks. But I actually didn't recognise that those portfolio work are actually the ones that boost your mark. So I'm thinking everything that was given to me in term of activity in term of homework in term of portfolio marks seriously. I'm taking everything in a manner that can in a manner that it can boost to my exams. I do believe I do need that because I do get stuck a lot when I need to do cycle texts and exams, my mind ought to think it is so much harder and I find it very find it very easy, a very easy very easy sum so complex and difficult compared to what it actually is. So I'm, I'm giving it my all I am sitting down and I am applying effort.

Researcher: Why do you think that learners when faced with an easy problem why do you think that they feel that it is very difficult?

SN37: We over analyze everything, we over analyze though the whole entire question we think you, um teachers would appreciate your answer that is so difficult compare to what it actually is, that like you give us marks than an actual one so we over analyze everything as we think because it is an exam no questions can be easy. So every question has those trapdoors and those all those traps that you are supposed to get stuck in or something like that so we don't look at it in a manner that is like, that your mind is clear when you look at it, look at it and finding an answer. You think there is spare rules or something like that so you over analyze it.

Researcher: So do you think that teachers only ask tricky questions?

SN37: No Ma'am, I think teachers set a question in a manner that if you think it is hard it but it can like mix you up or something so that the easiest one is actually the actual ones that you find challenging than what it is actually isn't. I think it's pretty easy to over think it.

Researcher: Then do you think or feel that you were prepared well for mathematics in primary school?

SN37: Yes Ma'am, yes I do.

Researcher: And do you think there is a gap between grade seven and eight or do you find it more or less the same?

SN37: In my mind I thought there was a big gap but if I was to review my principles in my grade eight book I will see that umm everything in grade seven has everything in grade eight, it's just a step more, a bit more challenging than it was in grade seven but everything goes hand in hand.

Researcher: And are you planning to take maths up to grade twelve?

SN37: Yes Ma'am, pure Maths not Maths Literacy.

Researcher: And how are you managing with your maths this year?

SN37: Managing pretty pretty well my teachers explain everything in a manner that you actually given me so I'm handling everything easily everything in all, I'm looking at my portfolio, I'm looking at my portfolio very very [unclear] Yah I think I'm managing well.

Researcher: Thanks much. Thank you.

SN37: Pleasure Ma'am.

4. Interview Transcript: BR23

Researcher: Interview with BR23. Good morning. Tell me how do you feel about Mathematics?

BR23: It's a challenging subject, uhmm I enjoy it when I understand the solutions and of course tests, but it is quite challenging.

Researcher: Do you actually believe that you can do Maths?

BR23: Uhmm, yes, but I can improve... (unclear)

Researcher: How do you feel about your ability to do Math?
**Interview Transcript: 9J27**

**Researcher:** Interview with 9J27. Right, how do you feel about Mathematics?

**9J27:** Umm, I feel like Maths is a... not very much different subject. It just need a lot of effort form a person, and a lot of determination and perseverance.

**Researcher:** How do you feel about your ability to do Maths?

**9J27:** My ability to do Maths, Umm, I can say I'm alright. I don't think that I am particularly good in Maths, but I think I can manage in Mathematics.

**Researcher:** And when you say that you can manage, do you feel that you are confident when doing Mathematics?

**9J27:** Not most of the time. I'm only confident when I am sure that I like studied a particular text, like umm I studied a lot, like, yeah.

**Researcher:** And do you think that your confidence has an influence on your ability to perform in Mathematics?

**9J27:** Umm, yes I think it does, because the more confident you feel the better I think you do in Maths.

**Researcher:** Right, when you are faced with a very difficult problem that you are struggling to solve, how does that make you feel?

**9J27:** Umm, it makes me feel mediocre in a way, because I that every problem that we get, I think that other people can do it, and that is only me that I can't do it. So it feels very small and mediocre that I can't solve a Maths problem.

**Researcher:** And if you had the same difficult problem, and you sat with it, and actually solved it, how does that make you feel?

**9J27:** It makes me feel better, I think you feel good, and I feel like you accomplished something.

**Researcher:** Then can you explain Maths to your friends with confidence?

**9J27:** No, not really.
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Researcher: Also still with a difficult problem if you faced with difficult problem and you sit and actually try, try and after a while you actually succeed in solving the problem how does that make you feel?

SN14: It makes me feel good cause man I realize that I can do it. I don't have to like, depend on other people to help me with it, I can do it on my own.

Researcher: Tell me do you ever sit if you, if you have a difficult problem, do you sit until you solve it or do you give up easily?

SN14: No, I try to solve it.

Researcher: Right, so it's very important for you to solve it?

SN14: Yes man.

Researcher: Okay then do you actually feel that you can explain mathematics to your friends?

SN14: Yes I do help my friends with Maths.

Researcher: And do you think you explain it well?

SN14: Yes man. Only it's understanding the work.

Researcher: And then, do you believe that you can do maths?

SN14: Yes man, I think so. I enjoy maths.

Researcher: Oh, explain why do you feel that?

SN14: Um? Can you repeat the question man?

Researcher: I asked if you believe you can do maths.

SN14: Yes.

Researcher: And explain why do you feel this?

SN14: Cause I've been doing well since I understand when the teacher explains, how to do the new work.

Researcher: Do you think that you can um, if someone gives you a sum that you never seen before or a problem and a solution do you think that you can figure out how to do another similar problem without someone to explain the work to you or do you think it is important that someone explain it to you first?

SN14: Yeah, I'll need someone to explain it to me first before I can do it.

Researcher: And how do you feel about your performance in grade 8 last year?

SN14: I was lucky umm at the end of the year cause because, the first two terms I did not do so well... (unclear).

Researcher: Right, and what was the difference between the first two terms and the last two terms? What made the difference?

SN14: Um, the first two difference umm the difference is that at first we had another teacher and I didn't like the way she explained and then when she came back and then I know what you where teaching and I understood.

Researcher: How are you managing this year in grade 9?

SN14: Um ah, I've been well.

Researcher: Do you think you will do well this year again?

SN14: Yes I think so, I think I do think so.

Researcher: I see last year your promotion mark was 70% but you actually get a distinction in the exam, while answering the exam. Did you feel confident?

SN14: Yes I did man because the exam was quite easy.

Researcher: So you found it easy?

SN14: Yes.

Researcher: Is there anything you would like to say about mathematics?

SN14: A like if a anyone is doing well in mathematics we shouldn't depend on other people to help you we should do it on our own. We should get someone to explain it to her and you eventually grasp that and then you can do it yourself.

Researcher: Right thank you very much.

2.

Interview Transcript: SN31

Researcher: SN31, how do you feel about Mathematics?

SN31: Uh, I know maths a like but I dun't like it a lot but now I understand in them, then I just start to dislike it.

Researcher: Right so, how do you feel about your ability to actually do maths?

SN31: Uh, I do have a struggle to do maths, man.

Researcher: So do you believe in yourself when doing maths?

SN31: No.

Researcher: Do you think that your confidence levels have any influence on your performance in maths?

SN31: Yes, because I realise as I'm confident about writing my paper when I answer my questions and then it does help in achieving them.

Researcher: When you face a difficult problem, how does that make you feel?

SN31: Uh, it's just kind of a like a me feels that I am not able to do it and then I just start dislike it.

Researcher: Won't you try some?

SN31: No I will attentively but uh.

Researcher: Okay. And if you attempted and you actually fulfilled a big problem, how does that make you feel?

SN31: It makes me feel I achieved it.

Researcher: OK and can you actually explain mathematics to your friends?

SN31: Yes I can.

Researcher: And how does it feel when you explain the work?

SN31: Ah right feels because I really like helping people and you.

Researcher: Then do you believe that you can do maths?

SN31: Yes, I do.

Researcher: Explain why you think you can do maths?

SN31: Uh, because I'm confident about doing maths and I feel very positive when I do and I enjoy doing maths.
1. I see your promotion mark last year was 75%, how do you feel about your performance in grade 9?

2. Right, so, would you say that um, when you studied well, study and practice hard for mathematics that it pays off?

3. And do you think when you study for maths that it raises your confidence levels in your abilities?

4. Yes it does, because it helps you to become better at maths and boost your confidence in it.

5. How are you managing this year with maths?

6. This year it is not so easy but it is getting better as long as I understand the work it's fine.

7. Right, and tell me do you think you are prepared well for mathematics in primary school?

8. Yes I was.

9. OK and um, how do you feel about teachers' influence on your ability to do maths?

10. Teachers have a big influence because they practically, if they don't explain it properly then we will have difficulties, still... It does, it's very, very vital that they explain properly and they do have a big influence.

11. Do you think that when you explain the work to your friend that you learn something from it?

12. Yes I do.

13. OK, why do you say that?

14. Because if I explain a problem then I will learn something when they tell me something that I might have mixed up.

15. What is your general feelings towards maths?

16. Umm?

17. When someone says the word mathematics what's the first thing that pops up?

18. It's a lot of both I like it and then I get it, somehow get scared with it.

19. And when you get scared why, why do you get feelings of being scared?

20. Because I'm afraid if I can't do it I won't be able to solve the problem.

21. Do you think that, that stops you from solving any problems?

22. No.

23. So do you think you're, you're scared of maths is grounded?

24. I don't think...

25. Or do have, or rather say do you think that, that you have to feel scared?

26. No I don't?

27. So it is unnecessary? Yes it's unnecessary.

28. All right thank you very much.

29. Interview Transcript: BR05

30. Interview with BR05. Right. Morning. I see that your promotion mark last year was 75%, which is a very good mark. How do you feel about Mathematics?

31. I really like Mathematics. I do well in the subject and that makes it a nice subject for me. I did well in the subject and that makes it a nice subject for me. And, um, last year's promotion mark was 75% although I thought I would do better.

32. Did you expect to get a distinction?

33. I did. Because in the first few terms I did get distinctions, and then in the fourth term I expected better than in the first three terms.

34. Was the exam worse than what you expected?

35. No really, um, it was challenging but, um, it was not too bad...

36. I wanted to know, do you think that your self-confidence has any influence on your ability to do Maths?

37. Yes, um, if you know that you are able to do something and you understand it you do better in that subject, and I feel good about Mathematics, because I know I am able to do it, and that's why I do so good, and yeah.

38. And if you struggle with a problem, what is the feeling that you get? Do you get frustrated, what do you feel like when you struggle with something?

39. I think I panic... and when I get panicked, I am unable to think, and that's why I try not to panic... or, if I struggle with a problem I do get frustrated and panicked and I feel like 'oh no I can't do this'

40. How do you overcome the panic?

41. Usually I have to stop thinking and stop writing and breathe in and out and go through my paper again and again to get back to the question.

42. I see that your CASS mark was 76% so you did well throughout the year. And the next exam mark was 77%, was there any stage throughout the exam any problem that you felt you could not solve?

43. Yes, there was quite a few and the exam was quite challenging and I said, I panic easily and then there was challenging questions I panicked easily and then sometimes I just, you know what I was doing.

44. And when you get to one of those problems where you start to panic and you go back to it and you actually get it right. How did it make you feel?
840: It's like less I accomplished it and usually somewhere along the paper I get to the question where I realize okay I've done this, but this is a much more harder problem than I did earlier, then I'm not silly but I get it right.

Researcher: Do you think it is important to go over the paper after you have written the paper?

840: Yes, because sometimes I make silly errors, just like I need to add a 0 or a 1 or something, so yes it's important to go through it.

Researcher: What is your general feeling about Mathematics?

840: I think it is an interesting subject and I don't like it, it's a challenging subject, and yeah.

Researcher: Do you feel comfortable enough with Maths to actually explain to your friends how to do certain things or do you prefer not to help someone else with their Mathematical problems?

840: Okay, if I understand a problem very well I can explain it to anybody. But sometimes if I am not sure about myself, I would like to explain but then I doubt myself.

Researcher: Right. If you are in doubt with yourself, do you think it is advisable to explain the work to someone else?

840: I don't think so. I think you should make sure first before you explain to somebody else.

Researcher: So do you have to be confident in your abilities?

840: Yes, definitely. I think that is it. Thank you very much.

4. Interview Transcript: 8920

Researcher: Interview with 8920. How do you feel about Mathematics?

8920: I think that Maths is really good, and especially when you get something right in Maths, you feel confident, and that makes you want to go on doing Maths. Umm, I think the teachers also play a big part in how you feel about Maths, because if they're enthusiastic about the subject and if they are positive and sure about what they do, it also makes you feel like you can do Maths. So do you feel like the teacher's confidence when teaching has an influence on your performances and your confidence when doing Mathematics?

8920: Yes, I do, because, umm, if the teacher knows what they are doing, it obviously makes you feel you are doing well and you feel that okay your right path and that there is someone that you can rely on when you need help.

Researcher: Do you feel that confidence influences your performances?

8920: Umm, at times it does. Because if you feel okay you know what I have got a good background on this, whatever this... um, like I feel you like you know what is going on and that you feel more confident and you tend to like that part of section of Maths more or like it said if you get something right you feel good about yourself, but the minute you start doing bad in it, it makes you dislike it.

Researcher: How do you feel about your ability to do Mathematics?

8920: As far as I can see in life so far, I think I am quite capable of doing it, if I put my mind strongly to it, but I do like rely on other sources to help me with my Maths marks.

Researcher: What sources is this?

8920: It may be my teachers or my, when I don't really rely on friends because I don't think that is a good thing, and then my sister.

Researcher: Right. So why don't you think friends are a good thing?

8920: Sometimes they are also unsure themselves, and if they are uncertain, it makes you feel uncertain.

Researcher: And your sister is she older than you?

8920: Yes she is Grade 11.

Researcher: And does she do well in Maths?

8920: Yes she does exceptionally well.

Researcher: So do you feel like she can explain work to you well?

8920: Yes she can.

Researcher: Okay, do you ever encounter problems that you feel like you can't solve?

8920: Yeah, there are times that that does happen. But that kind of boosts your confidence in Maths, and it feels like, this is a solid wall you came to and you can't go on, but I am sure that there is always a solution.

Researcher: So if you are faced with this difficult problem, and you get to solve it, how does that make you feel?

8920: You feel that boosts your self-esteem or your aspects of Maths, because you feel like if I can do this, I can surely find a solution to all the problems and I can cope with them.

Researcher: Do you feel confident in explaining Mathematical problems to your friends?

8920: If it is something that I am 100% sure about I don't mind and I can explain it well, but if it is something that I myself am not too sure about, then I'd rather not do it, because then I won't give them something that I am certain of.

Researcher: This is a question similar to one I already asked. Do you believe that you can do Mathematics? Also explain why you give that answer.

8920: I believe that I can do it. I mean, if so many people before me have done something like that, it is not impossible. A lot of kids say that Maths is a subject that you can't study for, do you agree with that or do you disagree?
I disagree with that, because I mean you have to apply your mind to what you are doing and if your base is not strong enough, I mean your base comes from where you study and how hard you work. So if you don't study and work hard I don't think you can accomplish the best that you can.

Researcher: And how do you study for Maths?

9B30: Uhm, I mostly study by practicing. I first set out rules for myself and then I get sums and do them myself and try it again and again until I get the right answer.

Researcher: And does that boost your confidence?

9B30: Yes, it does, because if you get to the right answer you feel that you can do this.

Researcher: Last year in grade 9 you got 95% for your promotion mark, how do you feel about your performances throughout grade 9?

9B30: Uhm, I feel like it could have been better than that, uhm, I do always hope for a 95% in Maths, but hopefully it will go better this year.

Researcher: Okay and I see your CASS mark was 87% and your Exam mark was 82%, did you find the exam easy or difficult compared to the continuous assessment done throughout the year?

9B30: I think the exam was a bit more challenging than the continuous assessment; because when we did the assessments it was smaller portions of work to focus on, compared to like everything.

Researcher: And then how do you feel you are managing your Mathematics this year?

9B30: So far I think it is going well, because of the extra maths classes and the uhm well what we do in extra maths classes sometimes we do like AP Maths, we do that work before we do it in Maths, so you feel more certain and more sure and you feel like okay this is the way to go and you feel good about yourself and that you can get it.

Researcher: Okay AP Maths is an extra Maths subject, do you think that that also helps your problem solving skills in general?

9B30: Uhm, yes I do.

Researcher: Are you planning on taking Maths until matrix?

9B30: Yes, I am.

Researcher: Why?

9B30: I think it is essential to have, I mean the careers that I have considered, they do require Mathematics at Math Literacy. So yes I do plan taking it.

Researcher: And do you feel confident in your ability to do Maths until matrix?

9B30: Yes I do, to a certain extent. There are times that you feel it is the end of the road for you, but there is always something that keeps you going, and there is always some sort of inspiration behind you.

Researcher: Do you feel like you are prepared well for Maths in Primary School for High School Maths, like algebra and geometry?

9B30: Uhm, I actually enjoy Mathematics. I find that I am coping with the work and I enjoy it.

Researcher: Do you think because you are coping with the work, that is the reason why you enjoy Maths?

9B30: Yes, but I, uhm, I enjoy doing Maths, I have always enjoyed doing Maths.

Researcher: How do you feel about your ability to do Maths?

9B30: I feel that my ability is above average, uhm, I do struggle here and there with it.

Researcher: Right, and if you do struggle with Maths, how do you cope with that?

9B30: I'm home for extra classes or I ask my friends to explain the work.
Researcher: So if you're struggling do you prefer to rather ask your friends, or do you feel confident enough to ask the teacher to as well?
9529: I, um, both if ask friends and then the teacher.
Researcher: Do you feel your confidence has an influence on your performance in Mathematics?
9529: Yes.
Researcher: Why do you say so?
9529: Umm, the more confident I am the better I do.
Researcher: Why do you think this is?
9529: Well always when I go into a test with confidence I would excel in the test, mostly because of the preparation I did.
Researcher: Would you then say that your preparation increase your confidence?
9529: Yes.
Researcher: When you are faced with a difficult problem, how does that make you feel?
9529: I'd actually see it as a challenge and I would not stop until I get the correct answer.
Researcher: And if you get the correct answer, what does that make you feel?
9529: It makes me feel very good about myself.
Researcher: Can you explain mathematical problems to your friends?
9529: Yes.
Researcher: Do they come to you for help?
9529: Some friends do, yes.
Researcher: Do you believe that you can do Maths well?
9529: Yes, I believe if I put in the effort.
Researcher: Please explain why you think this.
9529: Men, because I achieve good grades and also I understand what I'm doing and if I do not understand, I will find out.
Researcher: Last year in Gr. 9, you got 80% for your promotion mark, how do you feel about your performance in Gr. 9?
9529: I feel that my performance was very well, because I actually got my Distinction and I was satisfied with it...
Researcher: I also see that you actually did, um, you got 75% for your exam, how do you feel about your exam last year?
9529: I felt, um, satisfied with my results, but I felt that I should do better, I think I mixed my distinction well.
Researcher: Was it a difficult paper?
9529: Yes, yes it was.
Researcher: How are you managing with your Maths this year?
9529: This year I'm assignments and that I am coping with, but test I, um, the previous cycle test I did not perform that well.
Researcher: And how does that make you feel when you are not performing well, as well as your would want to?
9529: It's upsetting and lowers my self-esteem, but it makes me work harder, it makes me push more to achieving better marks.
ADDENDUM L

Proof of Language Editing

2 April 2013

I, Ms Cecilia van der Walt, hereby confirm that I took care of the editing of the dissertation of Ms Erika Schafer van der Bergh titled *The Influence of Academic Self-Confidence on Mathematics Achievements*.

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