The use of examples in the learning and teaching of graph theory

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Abstract: One commonly stated goal of advanced mathematics instruction is a desire for students to learn how to prove. Although recent work in mathematics education has investigated how mathematicians and students prove, little research has investigated how to teach students to prove. In this talk, I will present my research plan to investigate the connections between instruction and the choices students make while writing proofs. This presentation will be a mock dissertation proposal defense; its purpose is to help my actual defense go more smoothly.

Sarah Hanusch is a Doctoral student in the Mathematics Education PhD program at Texas State University, and expects to advance to candidacy this semester. She received a B.S. in Mathematics from St. Edward's University and a M.A. in Mathematics from the University of Texas. In addition to teaching at Texas State, Sarah is adjunct faculty at Austin Community College.