

Reflection

The history of geometry is an area that is extremely vast and involved. When I chose to research geometry I really had no idea where to start. When most mathematicians think of geometry, they think of Euclid. I, however, had no idea that Euclid's contribution to the subject of geometry was so debated over the years. I was under the assumption that since Euclid was such a respected mathematician that his work and declarations would never be questioned. I also found it very interesting that even though the first several attempts to show that Euclid's declarations were false failed, mathematicians continued to try and prove Euclid wrong.

I also found it very interesting that so many different non-Euclidean geometries came from the process of trying to show that Euclid's fifth postulate could not be a postulate. It is also interesting that in several non-Euclidean geometries, such as hyperbolic geometry, Euclid's fifth postulate is not true.

I have realized that within mathematics there is always the chance of your declarations being challenged and may even proven that what you have stated is false.

History has a strong base in what students learn throughout their mathematics career. Throughout high school students discuss Euclidean

geometry, but there is not much mention of the controversy that Euclid caused. I think that a mention of this controversy could help students become more interested and involved with Euclidean, and maybe even allowing students to become involved with non-Euclidean, geometries.