

Gender Issues

In Smith's educational career, she occasionally runs into sexists who try to put her or her work down. The interesting thing about this is that they were not all men. Throughout Smith's career, she has encountered people who do not believe that she can do math. However, most people were supportive along the way.

Mentors, teachers, or family members supported many of our mathematicians. Smith did not even realize that you could pursue a degree in mathematics until her calculus professor, Charles Fefferman, encouraged her. He subtly hinted to her that she could look into a career in the mathematical real. I assume this is when she decided to further her education in math and become a teacher.

Even though Smith encountered gender discrimination, she overcame this because she knew what she was capable of. Smith realized that she could receive support from the local school district. I would assume that knowing she was not alone enabled her to continue her mathematical career. The encouragement from her school system helped her to become the mathematician she is today.