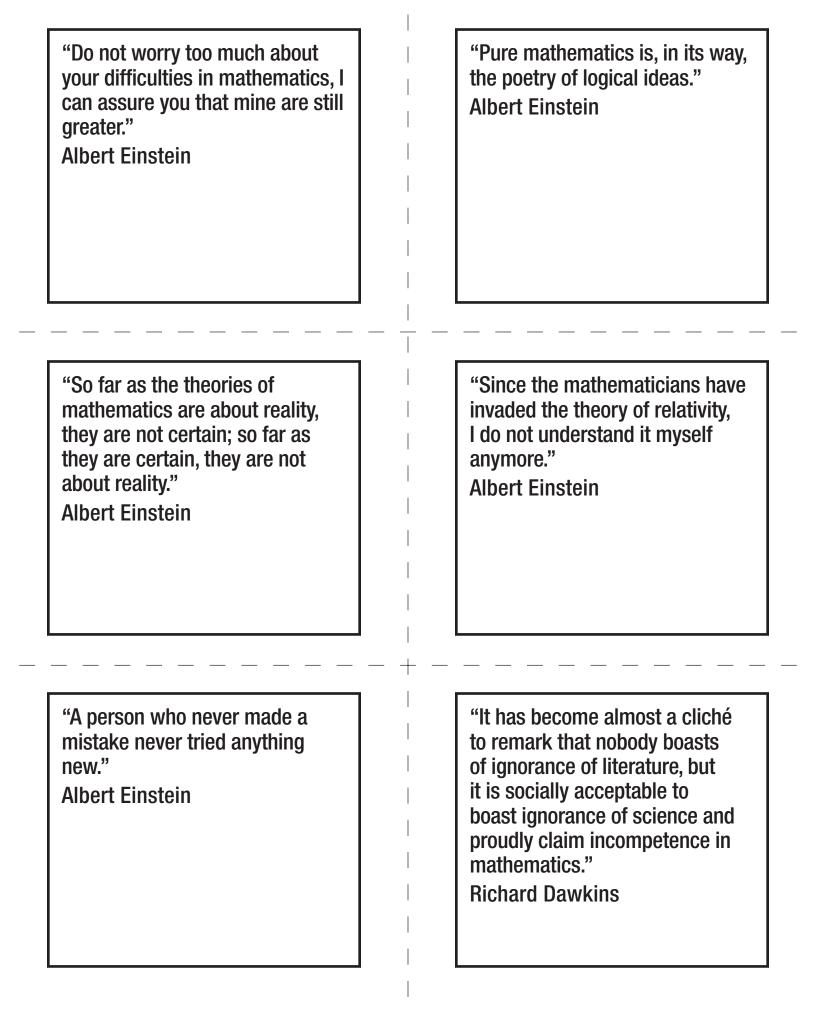
## Card Sorting Activity: Don't Quote Me on That!

A card sorting activity is a fun way to identify your students' attitudes and preconceptions. This activity has 42 cards—38 are quotes conveying attitudes about math and science, and 4 require a written response. Have students sort the cards into 2 piles: **agree** (this is me) and **disagree** (this is not me). Consider adding a neutral pile (this doesn't apply to me at all).

After students have sorted the cards, have them compile and summarize the quotes, then describe their attitudes, strengths, and weaknesses. Use the information to tailor your instruction involving math concepts.





"The most painful thing about mathematics is how far away you are from being able to use it after you have learned it." James Newman "Mathematics is the music of reason." James Joseph Sylvester

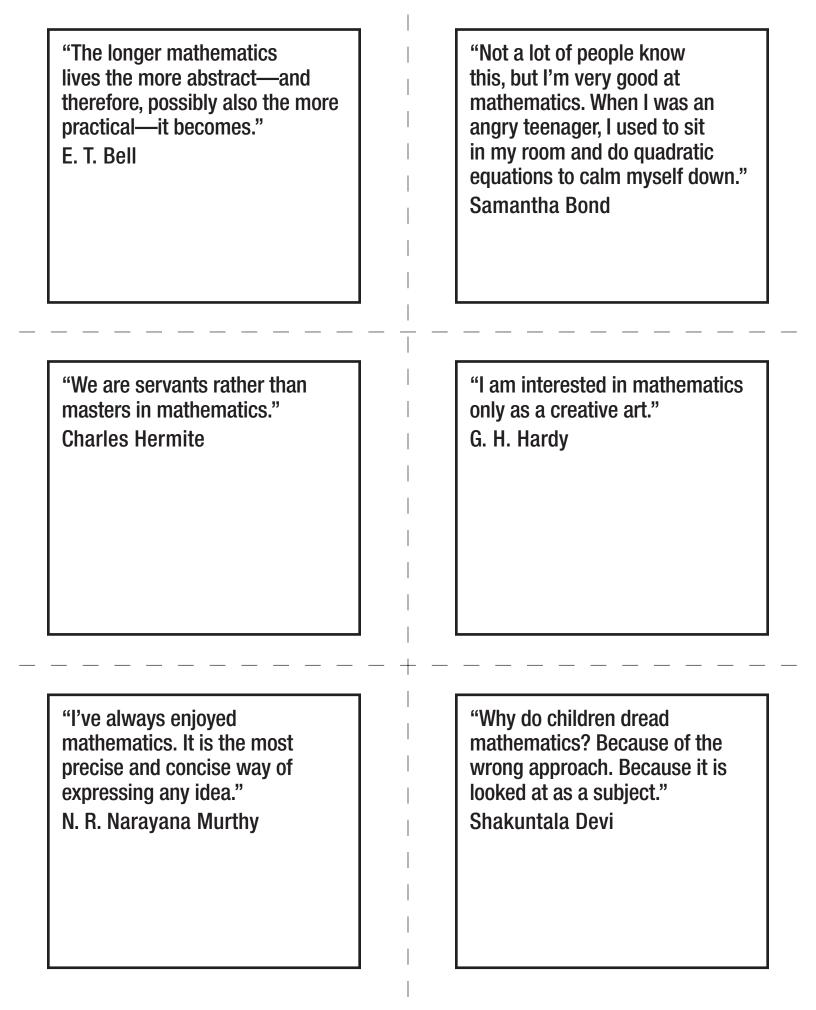
"Mathematics is a game played according to certain simple rules with meaningless marks on paper."

**David Hilbert** 

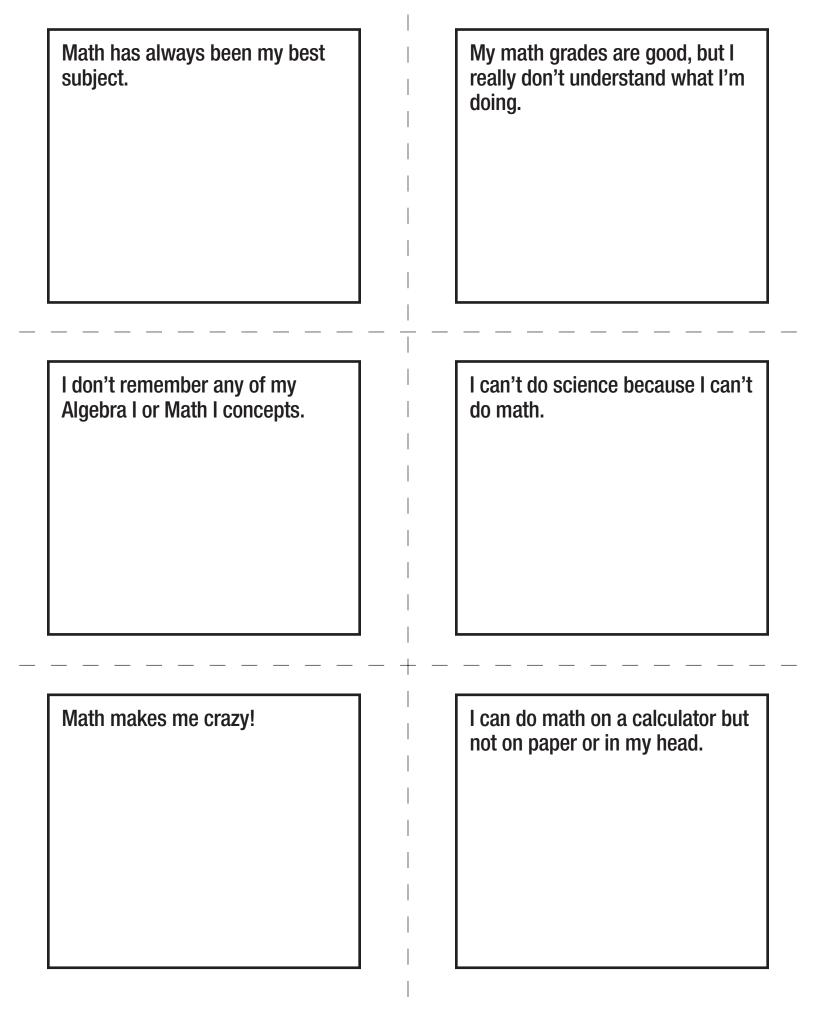
"The traditional mathematician recognizes and appreciates mathematical elegance when he sees it. I propose to go one step further, and to consider elegance an essential ingredient of mathematics: if it is clumsy, it is not mathematics." Edsger Dijkstra "Things like the financial markets—a proper grounding in mathematics could help the common man. I believe that if people are more familiar with mathematical concepts . . . it can help deal with modern life, which is increasingly complex." Viswanathan Anand

"All science requires mathematics. The knowledge of mathematical things is almost innate in us. This is the easiest of sciences, a fact which is obvious in that no one's brain rejects it; for laymen and people who are utterly illiterate know how to count and reckon." Roger Bacon

"Mathematics has beauty and romance. It's not a boring place to be, the mathematical world. It's an extraordinary place; it's worth spending time there." Marcus du Sautoy	"Thinking—in particular abstract thinking, which most of us are introduced to through the study of mathematics and literature— helps us learn that we can become problem solvers." Kathryn Lasky
"In my own research when I'm working with equations, I never feel like I really understand what I'm doing if I'm solely relying on the mathematics for my under- standing. I need to have a visual picture in my mind. I'm constantly translating from the math to some intuitive mind's-eye picture." Brian Greene	"You want to know how to rhyme, then learn how to add. It's mathematics." Mos Def
"Mathematics is a place where you can do things, which you can't do in the real world." Marcus du Sautoy	"I find all of my performances come down to mathematics in a sense—how do you approach the problem of this character? Sometimes I crack that problem, sometimes I don't." Brad Pitt



"I hated science in high school. Technology? Engineering? Math? Why would I ever need this? Little did I realize that music was also about science, technology, engineering and mathematics, all rolled into one." Mickey Hart	"We in science are spoiled by the success of mathematics. Mathematics is the study of problems so simple that they have good solutions." Whitfield Diffie
"Film is one of the three universal languages, the other two: mathematics and music." Frank Capra	"Every child should try everything: sport, music, art, mathematics; they can do it all. Copying and competition are now seen as twin evils, but they are both useful tools." Tony Buzan
"I was a mathematician by nature, and still am—I just knew I didn't want to be a mathematician. So I decided not to take any mathematics courses." Stephen Sondheim	I I



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