

# Uses of Geometry Software: Geometer's Sketchpad and Cabri

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James King

University of Washington

This seminar was essentially just an overview of the capabilities of Geometer's Sketchpad. Some points concerning the use of technology were made:

- It makes "advanced concepts" more accessible (for example, Voronoi diagrams)
- It makes it easier to present the same idea from multiple viewpoints, thus increasing the students' understanding
- The outcome of a pre-formatted computer demonstration is often more predictable than that of an unwieldy paper-and-string construction.
- It makes it easy for students to experiment with new ideas.

The discussion was rather superficial and narrow in focus. In particular, it did not delve into issues of

- Effective classroom use
- Other software products available (for example, the Java demonstrations of interactive Voronoi diagrams available through the World Wide Web)
- How to incorporate geometry software into meaningful lessons
- The effects of moving the visualization process from the students' minds to the computer screen. (Is it detrimental in the long term?)

or any of a number of other important related topics.