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The Whys, Whats, and Hows of Feedback

Changing technology is disrupting the educational landscape at an alarming rate. 65 percent of today's students will graduate into jobs that do not yet exist, according to the World Economic Forum. Over 85 percent of the jobs in 2030 have not yet been invented. Hard skills tend to have a shelf life of five years. What effect will this analysis have on modern workplaces? Is it time to shift our emphasis from raising knowledge workers to raising learning workers? What are the skills needed as a result? Soft skills will gain importance. Through mathematics, students are able to acquire and master complex problem-solving, reasoning, analysis, creativity, active learning, critical thinking, and programming skills. According to Forbes (2109), 15 soft skills you need to succeed when entering the workforce are empathy, the ability to influence peers, emotional intelligence, curiosity, positivity, active listening, humility, communication skills, creative problem solving, resilience, observation skills, the ability to contextualize, willingness to ask questions, relationship building, self-awareness. How many of these are part of our math curriculum? What soft skills can we tap into by changing the way we assess student learning and provide feedback? This talk will examine the implementation of a peer feedback mechanism in a project-based mathematics course called "Introductory Algebra for Social Sciences." We will also take a look at the history of feedback and look at how different forms of feedback have increasingly become integral to learning theories and designs.