**Writing 101W**

**5 May 2021**

**5-5 Classwork**

I would start the story with this paragraph:

“In 1931, Kurt Godel demonstrated two theorems. The first one shows, in effect, that mathematics contains statements that may be true, but are inherently unprovable. Even a formal system as simple as arithmetic permits statements that are precise, meaningful, and seem certainly true, and yet cannot be proven true by formal means. His second theorem shows that a claim of the consistency of arithmetic is just such a statement; it cannot be proven true by any means using the axioms of arithmetic. That is, arithmetic as a formal system cannot guarantee that it will not produce results such as "1 = 2"; such contradictions may never have been encountered, but it is impossible to prove that they never will be.” (Ted Chiang, Division by Zero)

I choose to start the story with this paragraph because it presented a theory that even math being exact but still not perfect and many things are debatable. I hope to achieve the effect of making the readers think that even the geniuses who discovered and improved our understanding of math are also not concrete of their theories thus being able to discover through out the process and learning it.As I do this exercise, I myself even ask if one is really equals to one or two, but the first theory of Godel makes sense that statements may be true but inherently unprovable thus, questions and discoveries in math is continuous and inevitable.I like Chiang’s original version of which paragraph makes sense to readers who don't know how to divide by zero because the opening defines the impossibility of dividing any number even infinity by zero.In writing, I could try thinking of even the math theories are not absolutely true and one may prove the validity of the something but another theory may possibly counter its rationality.

**This is the bulleted form of the answers.**

* How you chose this paragraph to be the start of the story, and why,

I choose to start the story with this paragraph because it presented a theory that even math being exact but still not perfect and many things are debatable.

* What effects you were hoping to achieve,

I hope to achieve the effect of making the readers think that even the geniuses who discovered and improved our understanding of math are also not concrete of their theories thus being able to discover through out the process and learning it.

* What doing this exercise was like, what you were thinking as you did it, etc.,

As I do this exercise, I myself even ask if one is really equals to one or two, but the first theory of Godel makes sense that statements may be true but inherently unprovable thus, questions and discoveries in math is continuous and inevitable.

* Whether you liked Chiang’s original version or yours better and why,

I like Chiang’s original version of which paragraph makes sense to readers who don't know how to divide by zero because the opening defines the impossibility of dividing any number even infinity by zero.

* What ideas you have for things you could try in your own writing.

In writing, I could try thinking of even the math theories are not absolutely true and one may prove the validity of the something but another theory may possibly counter its rationality.

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“In 1931, Kurt Godel demonstrated two theorems. The first one shows, in effect, that mathematics contains statements that may be true, but are inherently unprovable. Even a formal system as simple as arithmetic permits statements that are precise, meaningful, and seem certainly true, and yet cannot be proven true by formal means. His second theorem shows that a claim of the consistency of arithmetic is just such a statement; it cannot be proven true by any means using the axioms of arithmetic. That is, arithmetic as a formal system cannot guarantee that it will not produce results such as "1 = 2"; such contradictions may never have been encountered, but it is impossible to prove that they never will be.” (Ted Chiang, Division by Zero)

**This is the bulleted form of the answers.**

* How you chose this paragraph to be the start of the story, and why,

This paragraph was chosen to begin the story because it introduced the idea that even though math is exact, it is still imperfect, and many items are arguable.

* What effects you were hoping to achieve.

I hope to achieve the effect of making the readers think that even the geniuses who discovered and improved our understanding of math are also not concrete of their theories thus being able to discover through out the process and learning it.

* What doing this exercise was like, what you were thinking as you did it, etc.,

As I work through this exercise, I find myself questioning whether one is really equal to one or two, but Godel's first theory makes sense: statements may be valid, but they are ultimately unprovable, so questions and discoveries in math are unavoidable.

* Whether you liked Chiang’s original version or yours better and why,

I prefer Chiang’s original version of which paragraph makes sense to readers who don't know how to divide by zero in which the opening describes the impossibility of dividing any number, even infinity, by zero.

* What ideas you have for things you could try in your own writing.

In writing, I might consider that even math theories are not absolute truths, and that one theory can prove the validity of something while another theory may challenge its rationality.