

Problem Posing and Problem Solving: From Curiosity to Generalization

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Problem solving and proposing are among the most fruitful mathematical activities. Most of this author's research and articles began with curiosity, which led to experimentation and discovery of one or more patterns, which led to conjecture. At that point, the problem generally required a proof, and the search for one became the focus. And after all that was done, shortly after patting oneself on the back and feeling good about the work—you guessed it—there is suddenly an equally interesting variant! (And after that is all explored and exhausted, and you are rested, soon, there is a whole new problem.)



Michael W. Ecker received his PhD in mathematics from the City University of New York in 1978. Before retiring in 2016, he had a 45-year career as a mathematics professor, the last 30 at Pennsylvania State University's Wilkes-Barre campus. Published regularly in different venues, he served on national committees responsible for creating competitive national exams. For 21 years he also labored over his own newsletter, *Recreational & Educational Computing*, featuring the interplay of mathematics, computers, and recreations. Besides owning a whopping 125 computers, he is the author of 500 publications. Mike is also the Problem Section Editor of this journal.