**Statement of Purpose**

Algebra originates from the Arabic language and is required by the Ohio Content Standards for mathematics at various levels. The dictionary.com definition of algebra is, “the branch of mathematics that deals with general statements of relations, utilizing letters and other symbols to represent specific sets of numbers, values, vectors, etc., in the description of such relations.” Algebra is using mathematical operations in order to find unknown numbers. This is a task that is needed in several aspects of school and life.

Math typically is not many students favorite subject. In fact, many students despise the subject altogether. When algebra is introduced to students who already do not like math, it does not always go over well. Students often have a hard time solving equations with numbers, but when letters (or unknown numbers) are presented in equations, confusion and/or frustration seems to set in. Despite the opinions of students on this subject, it is important that students are subjected to algebra and have an understanding of it.

Algebra is a life skill. Often in life, one will be faced with a problem and they need to figure out how the problem occurred in the first place and they will need to know the relationship between two numbers. Algebra is one method to help in order to figure out the problem. Units and lessons about algebra must be taught to students in order to solve for unknown variables. By using algebra, relationships in math can be better understood rather than expressing them in words (113).

Algebra must be incorporated into the curriculum of math lessons to ensure the mathematical success of students. By subjecting students to algebra, they will grow in math and become efficient at solving mathematical equations. Algebra should be included in lessons at a young age and continue to become more complex as an understanding of the concepts are gained by the student.

[http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/algebra retrieved February 11](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/algebra%20retrieved%20February%2011), 2009.

Orfan, L., Vogeli, B., Krulik, S., Rudnic, J., (1988). Mathematics. Morristown: Silver Burdett & Ginn.