



About This Problem

Dear Fellow Teachers:

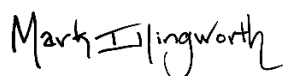
We provided this problem not just because it is timely but also because it illustrates an important component of this course that sets it apart from other geometry courses.

Trapeze Education courses are about developing higher-order thinking skills within the context of learning math. One of those thinking skills is creating, which is at the top of Bloom's Taxonomy. Students create in math when they not only solve problems, but also find the problems worth solving and develop original analyses and solution paths. We call this process an Exploration, which is one of the nine strands of the curriculum that develop higher-order thinking skills. We want students to know the basic skills, but we also want our future problem solvers to be able to think analytically, creatively, and independently.

This sample is what we call a Problem Worth Solving, which is meant to go hand-in-hand with the Explorations because it models the process of following paths that lead to paths that lead to more paths. It guides students in the process of challenging assumptions and asking what-if questions in order to explore and analyze increasingly complex variations of a layered problem.

We wrote this for you. You are welcome to use this with students, but because of some of the math techniques required (which we'll let you discover as the students would), it has to come later in the year. You can try it now. Although this course is for students, we also wrote it for you as a way to further develop your interest in teaching through an emphasis on rich problem solving experiences. One of the best ways to do this is to try these types of challenges yourself so you can learn what the students experience. To that end, we hope you enjoy working through *Social Distancing Squared* as much as we enjoyed creating it. There are a lot of interesting nooks and crannies in this problem, and we left you plenty of room to explore and develop them even further.

Enjoy,



Founder, Trapeze Education