

Stacey Dedden

Professor Long

MAT 115

Card Trick

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Ice Cream Card Trick

Ask someone to come up and get $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the deck which would be 13 cards since $\frac{52}{4}$ is 13. Ask their favorite ice cream. For example, lets say the audience member says “mocha chip.” Take the cards and shuffle them, but before counting out the three scoops take a sneak peak at the card on the bottom. Mine is the 4 of hearts. Now give the person three scoops. Spell out “mocha chip” then put the rest of the cards on the top as the “toppings.”

After the first scoop, I have four cards remaining as the toppings. I took a peek of those four cards and my 4 of hearts happened to be the fourth card from the end. I count out another scoop and none of the last four toppings were my card. My card would be under the “h” in mocha. Put the toppings on, give the last scoop. When you spell out their favorite ice cream for the last scoop, four cards are once again the toppings. Since the 4 of hearts was the fourth to the last, it now becomes the top topping.

This would not work with “coffee” because it is less than half of the deck and when I do the card trick, the cards get recycled around in a way where my card I looked at, did not end up on top but at the bottom. However, many cards you ask the participate to get, their word has to be over half of how many cards you decide to use.



My first thirteen cards.



Taking a sneak peek.



My four toppings.



My four topping cards, when I set these down, my 4 of hearts will be fourth to last.



My topping cards for the second scoop.



My 4 of hearts ended up on top of the last scoop.