Parabolas: Lesson 7

Episode 1: Making Sense

General equation for a parabola with a vertex at the origin: $y=\frac{x^2}{4p}$

Below are the graphs of parabola p values of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1.

- 1. State below your claim for how changing the value of p in the equation affects the shape of the parabola.
- 2. Add and label the directrix for each parabola. How do you know where to place each directrix?
- 3. What does it mean for one parabola to be wider than another parabola? How would you provide mathematical evidence that supports your claim?

