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Julian F Fleron* (j_fleron@foma.wsc.mass.edu), Department of Mathematics, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086. *First-Year Seminar - Engaging and Preparing Mathematics Students.*

Our first-year seminar has evolved from efforts to replace the necessary, but often evil, transition/proof course with a vital, engaging study of mathematics, its history, its champions, and its culture. While retaining a substantial focus on proof, our seminar invites students into the mathematics major by foreshadowing mathematics' great triumphs, teaching them how to read and communicate in mathematics' special language, and providing them with a rich context for their major area of study. In this talk I will describe this course: explaining its philosophy; detailing its curriculum, text and materials; describing typical classroom meetings; discussing the course's role in our program; etc. Additionally, I will distribute resources for those interested to utilize or adapt, including: course synopsis, daily reading outlines, homework assignments, project assignments, and student feedback. (Received September 15, 2000)