

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP A1, MAA Session on Getting Students To Discuss and To Write About Mathematics, I

1003-A1-212      **Morteza Shafii-Mousavi\*** (mshafii@iusb.edu), Mathematical Sciences, Indiana University South Bend, P. O. Box 7111, South Bend, IN 46634, and **Paul Kochanowski** (pkochano@iusb.edu), School of Business & Economics, Indiana University South Bend, P.O. Box 7111, South Bend, IN 46634. *Getting Students to Discuss and to Write about Mathematics in a Linked Finite Math and Computer Technology Course.*

This paper describes discussing and writing about math in an interdisciplinary project-based math course linked to a computer technology course. The linkage encourages an appreciation of math, technology, and communication skills as students see an immediate use for these skills in completing actual real-world projects. Placing these related subjects in parallel, we emphasize communicating math, applications, discussing data and methodology, and analysis of the results. A major part of the evaluation of students is writing and presentation of the completed projects to actual client organizations. Through this association of math, technology, and industrial projects, students 1) gain comprehension of the relevance of the concepts articulated in these areas; 2) write and discuss about math and its applications; 3) obtain better preparation to apply these skill sets in future academic undertakings; 4) gain basic skills of information technology; and 5) apply math, technology, and communication skills to solve actual projects. The paper emphasizes how the use of actual projects helps students gain greater understanding of math, as well as to improve their understanding of mathematics language, ability to communicate solutions, and write recommendations to none mathematics clients. (Received August 28, 2004)