

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP C1, MAA Session on Courses Below Calculus: A New Focus, I

1003-C1-235 **Saburo Matsumoto*** (smatsumoto@masters.edu), Department of Mathematics, The Master's College, Santa Clarita, CA 91321. *Virtual Discussion Board: A Way to Enhance Conceptual Understanding in a Mathematics Class*. Preliminary report.

Many students enrolled in college mathematics courses feel that the material taught in these courses are nothing more than some rigorous rules to follow while the professors try various methods to stress conceptual understanding. This may be particularly true in courses below calculus. One innovative way to overcome this challenge and enhance conceptual and quantitative understanding in a lower-division mathematics course is the use of an online discussion board. In my presentation I will discuss how I have been taking advantage of the online discussion feature of the campus network to supplement in-class discussions and how it can be used in a variety of courses including remedial courses, liberal arts mathematics, college algebra, and precalculus. Some examples and actual comments by students will be shared to show the effectiveness of an online discussion board. (Received September 01, 2004)