

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP O1, MAA Session on Teaching and Assessing Problem Solving

1003-O1-689      **Rachelle DeCoste** ([Rachelle.DeCoste@usma.edu](mailto:Rachelle.DeCoste@usma.edu)), MADN-MATH, United States Military Academy, 646 Swift Road, West Point, NY 10996, and **Amy H. Lin\*** ([Amy.Lin@usma.edu](mailto:Amy.Lin@usma.edu)), MADN-MATH, United States Military Academy, 646 Swift Road, West Point, NY 10996.  
*Introducing Students to Problem Solving.* Preliminary report.

Almost all freshmen at the United States Military Academy at West Point spend two weeks focused exclusively on problem solving in their mathematics classes. It is thought that stressing the importance of the process of solving problems rather than an emphasis on finding absolute solutions will help develop students' abilities to approach real world problems beyond the college classroom. The authors will share the techniques they used to help the students derive this process themselves. Following the discussion about the process, the authors will share both successful and unsuccessful examples of problems posed to the students. The presentation will end with the authors' reflections on the difficulties of emphasizing the problem solving process in the classroom throughout the entire semester. (Received September 27, 2004)