

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP X1, MAA General Contributed Paper Session, I

1003-X1-913            **Erick Brian Hofacker\*** ([Erick.B.Hofacker@uwrf.edu](mailto:Erick.B.Hofacker@uwrf.edu)), 206D North Hall, River Falls, WI  
54022. *An Attempt at Teaching a Form of Contemporary College Algebra*. Preliminary report.

The paper will describe how the author attempted to change his College Algebra classes so that they fit a more contemporary model. The framework for the class is built on three major points. The first was an attempt to incorporate more real-life situations and modeling into the curriculum. To do this the author used some of the suggested activities and projects from the "Vision-Potential" newsletter put out by the HBCU College Algebra Reform Consortium, while also creating some of his own. Second the author based some of his in-class presentations and assignments for the students around the use of MS Excel. Through the use of slider bars and parameter changes, the students were able to see the mathematics come alive. Students were then asked to model real-life situations on their own through the use of Excel. Third the author changed the flow of the class from following from section to section in the text of the course, to focusing on a big topic of the week. Students were then responsible for working on labs during the week that helped them experience the math that was being discussed in class that week. Later on in the course, some of the topics were revisited by the students, within groups, by working on a real-life situational project. (Received September 30, 2004)