

1014-H1-187 **Pam Miltenberger*** (miltenberger_p@wwvc.edu), 59 College Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201.
Who's The Man?: The Question That Made My Students Fight About Mathematics. Preliminary report.

In my History of Mathematics class, students were required to write a paper about a famous mathematician and to participate in a "Who's the Man?" contest. Students were to select a mathematician who lived prior to 1600, write a short paper based on certain constraints, and use at least three internet sources. On the day of the contest, students had two minutes to convince fellow classmates that the mathematician they selected was "the man." Unbeknownst to the students, they were voting on several other categories ranging from "greatest contribution to mathematics" to "most likely to be placed in a mental institution." Before each vote, the students were given one more chance to campaign for their mathematician. Later in the semester, the same assignment, with slight modifications, was given for mathematicians who lived after 1600. The enthusiasm the "Who's the Man?" contests generated was remarkable. Admittedly, the students did not have a "real" fight, but they did "play" fight about whose mathematician was better. Overall, the catchy title, ownership of a mathematician, and good old-fashioned competition brought out the best in students. (Received August 11, 2005)