

1035-M1-1322      **Elaine T. Hale\*** (ehale@rice.edu), Rice University, 6100 Main Street, MS 134, Houston, TX  
77005-1892. *Connecting Linear Algebra to the Real World through Group Presentations.*

Undergraduate mathematics students frequently ask instructors for more examples and real world applications, sometimes expressed in the whine, “When are we ever going to use this?” In particular, most undergraduate students in a first course in linear algebra are unaware of the wide applicability and actual use of linear algebra in real-world situations. To help students discover the ubiquity of linear algebra for themselves, this past semester Rice University matrix analysis students were required to find a particular application of linear algebra in the research literature and give a brief review of their findings to the class in groups of two to three. This presentation summarizes the structure of the assignment, the classroom observations of the instructor, and the results of a student survey given at the end of the semester. (Received September 19, 2007)