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Katarzyna Potocka* (kpotocka@ramapo.edu), School of Theoretical and Applied Science, Ramapo College of New Jersey, 505 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. *Group Projects Reinforcing Most Crucial Concepts of an Introductory Statistics Class*. Preliminary report.

The author will present a series of group projects that she found to be successful in her introductory statistics class. Innovative methods of assigning the projects and assessing them will be also presented. The projects reinforce the most crucial concepts from an introductory statistics class. They involve hands-on data collection, numerically summarizing data, experiencing the distribution of the sample mean, computing confidence intervals and hypothesis testing about the population mean. They involve interpretation questions, not just mere computations. They are conducted by students outside of a classroom, which encourages student involvement and saves lecture time. The author will discuss the positive impact of group projects on the classroom dynamics and student learning. The projects fulfill the experiential component of the course as well as support the experiential learning pillar of the college's mission statement. They promote active learning by placing scientific knowledge to immediate use on matters of particular interest to students or public issues while supporting conceptual understanding. (Received September 16, 2007)