1046-14-433 **Robert Guralnick** and **Michael Zieve*** (zieve@math.rutgers.edu), Department of Mathematics, Rutgers University, 110 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854. *Minimal-genus G-actions.* Preliminary report.

Let G be a finite group, and let p be either 0 or a prime number. Let $f(G,p)$ be the least integer $g>1$ for which G acts on a genus-g curve over an algebraically closed field of characteristic p. I will discuss properties of $f(G,p)$, with particular emphasis on the uniformity of f as a function of G. I will also discuss the analogous problem for group actions on ordinary curves. (Received September 02, 2008)