

1046-Z1-1370 **Edwin P Herman*** (eherman@uwsp.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481. *Which is better: homework or quizzes?* Preliminary report.

Graded homework assignments and quizzes are both popular formative assessment methods. Each one has its proponents, and some instructors use both in their classes. It would be valuable to know which (if either) is better at promoting student ability in mathematics courses. Literature on this question is scarce, so I decided to investigate it myself. To focus my research, I have tried to find out which of the two assessment methods tends to produce higher exam scores in students.

For the last year and a half I have studied student performance in my classes. Each semester I taught two sections of a lower division course. For the first exam, students in one section turned in weekly homework assignments, while students in the other section took quizzes on the same set of questions. At each subsequent exam the requirements were switched. A statistical analysis was performed for each semester to see if either method produced significantly higher results.

Additionally, I sent out a survey this fall to math professors around the country regarding homework/quiz practices. In my presentation, I will discuss the statistical results of my study and the summary results from the survey. Student feedback on which method they thought was more helpful will also be presented. (Received September 15, 2008)