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Barbara L Hess* (hess@calu.edu), Mathematics and Computer Science Department, 250 University Ave., California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA 15419. Applications of Mathematics: Using Multi-Media Curriculum to Teach Mathematics to Liberal Arts Majors. Preliminary report.

Many times liberal arts majors think that mathematics is just a bunch of formulas. They view mathematics as not revelant to the real world or as something that they would ever use.

ThinkSharp curriculum has been used in a liberal arts mathematics course at California University of Pennsylvania to fully engage students in doing mathematics. Video tape case study scenarios paired with delayed revelation pedagogy are used to introduce liberal arts majors to such mathematical topics as box plots, linear programming and dijkstra method of finding the shortest path. Students are split into small groups that work as problem solving teams in the on campus course. In the online version of the course, the entire class works together through online discussion threads to solve the case study scenarios.

Formal study has not been conducted but outcomes assessment has shown that students are meeting course objectives. Enrollment figures in the course have been strong and show that liberal arts students are drawn to the course because it is not the typical mathematics course. (Received September 19, 2009)