1067-V1-2246

Curtis D. Bennett\* (cbennett@lmu.edu), Department of Mathematics, 1 LMU Drive, Suite 2700, Los Angeles, CA 90045, Suzanne Larson (slarson@lmu.edu), Department of Mathematics, 1 LMU Drive, Suite 2700, Los Angeles, CA 90045, and Laura J. Massa (lmassal@lmu.edu), 1 LMU Drive, Room 3029, Los Angeles, CA 90045. An analysis of student understanding of voting power in a quantitative literacy class. Preliminary report.

This talk is a preliminary report on our analysis of student learning of the concept of voting power. In fall 2008, we taught a unit on voting power in a quantitative literacy class consisting of students playing a game involving weighted voting and then on another day discussing the Electoral College and the Banzhaff Power of the states in the Electoral College, and finally calculating the power of individual voters from each state. As a final project students wrote a letter to the editor in favor of or against the Electoral College. In this talk we will give a preliminary report of the analysis of student understanding of voting power based on their letters to the editor and answers to questions on the final exam. (Received September 22, 2010)