

1086-H1-973

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When students arrive in the classroom, we wish them to be well-prepared for the learning to happen. However, especially in the first two years in college, many students may need guidance in this preparation. In this talk, we will describe our use of pre-class activities in calculus and linear algebra classes to help students be ready for learning, more specifically ready for learning with understanding. Sample activities and student reactions to the use of these activities will be included. (Received September 17, 2012)