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Mathematics and English: A Joint Venture.

How can we help our students become better communicators? We have found that focusing on communicating mathematical concepts alone may not be the answer. We have collaborated with the Department of English to tackle this issue from two perspectives. In the freshman math modeling course, we have students write a report using mathematics to solve a real world problem. We assess the students on how well they communicate in this project as well as on content using guidance on writing standards from the Department of English. Upon returning them, the English department has students analyze their writing approach and its effect on their presentation of ideas using the feedback from the math instructors. Our initial results suggest that this interdepartmental approach is helping students become better communicators. This talk will overview the development and implementation of this interdepartmental project and discuss ways we will see it evolving into the future. (Received September 18, 2009)