

1014-H1-1171 **Kimberly J Presser*** (kjpres@ship.edu), Shippensburg University, Department of Mathematics, Shippensburg, PA 17257. *Web Quests for Introductory Statistics Students*. Preliminary report.

The presence of statistics in everyday life may seem obvious to some. One cannot pick-up a newspaper or magazine without finding some type of statistics present: a pie chart, a table of data, a reference to a survey of people's opinions, a mention of the average price of gas across the country. When I began teaching Introduction to Statistics, I figured this was obvious to the students as well. However, I discovered that my students had a hard time connecting what we were learning in class to the statistics in their daily lives. When I assigned them writing assignments or research projects and gave them flexibility in choosing the topic for their assignments, they often couldn't get themselves started because they couldn't imagine how statistics might apply to their own interests. I have designed some web quests with reading and writing components to them to help my students explore statistics from everyday sources in order to help them better see the use of statistics in a variety of areas. I will talk about some of the web quests, methods for submitting assignments, benefits and difficulties encountered. (Received September 27, 2005)