

1023-I1-300

John F. Putz* (putz@alma.edu), Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801. *A Course with a Focus on the Other Two R's.*

I will describe a reading and writing course about the fourth dimension. Students are assigned a reading every day. They write a reading response, bring it with them to a round-table class discussion, then hand it in for my comments and evaluation. Some days, students work in small groups to create and perform short plays or construct physical models. There are also two major papers (in addition to two, fairly standard exams). Readings include Edwin Abbott's *Flatland* and Tom Banchoff's *Beyond the Third Dimension*, but also Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* and Plato's *Republic*.

I will share the instructions, "How to Write a Reading Response," that I provide to guide students' writing as well as the rubric I use for evaluation. I'll discuss the value and utility of the students' daily writing and the types of response I might write on their papers. I will also talk about how I overcame some trepidation in teaching a course structured, in large part, more like a literature course than a mathematics course. (What if they don't talk in class discussions!?) (Received September 04, 2006)