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Dianna J. Spence*, North Georgia College & State University, Dep't. of Mathematics and Computer Science, 82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30597, and **Sherry L. Hix**, North Georgia College & State University. *Combining Strategies to Promote Meaningful Learning in Statistics.*

We share a blend of three strategies to help students develop both a deeper understanding of statistical concepts and an awareness of the relevance and application of statistics in their lives. The first strategy is the simulation of repeated trials to explore statistical reasoning and the context for hypothesis tests. Simulations are conducted both with concrete materials and with readily available web-based applets. The second strategy is to facilitate student-directed projects in which students identify their own variables and research question, collect and analyze their own data, and formally report their findings. The third strategy is to use collaborative groups to discuss, analyze, and critique published articles that report findings of statistical studies, attending to specific aspects of the study, such as sampling, data collection methods, statistical analysis, and interpretation of results. Examples, sample materials, and resources used to employ each strategy are shared.

The connections and interplay among these three strategies are also discussed. Because each strategy helps to illuminate or strengthen some aspect of the other two, the contribution to student learning achieved by combining the strategies is greater than the sum of its parts. (Received September 21, 2012)