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Although writing in mathematics has many benefits for students, creating and grading worthwhile writing projects can be more time consuming than utilizing more traditional forms of assessment, which often prevents faculty members from assigning them. To encourage using writing projects, we will share lessons learned through our experience as well as student data regarding writing projects in mathematics. Audience members will see an example of a single writing project prompt which has been successfully utilized in a calculus, differential equations and mathematical modeling course. Survey data that we have collected from differential equations students illustrates that they perceive commonly cited benefits about writing in math (like exploring practical uses of mathematics, deepening content knowledge, and strengthening communication). We also share other student cited benefits to writing that instructors may not have considered before. (Received September 25, 2012)