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Eric B. Kahn*, ekahn@bloomu.edu. *Developing Voting Systems on the First Day: an IBL Approach.*

The character of a mathematics for liberal arts course makes it a natural place to incorporate active learning experiences throughout the semester. One obstacle that some professors feel must initially be overcome to make such experiences meaningful, is developing some minimum level of material first through lecture prior to any activity. However using their own life experiences as a substitute for lecture, students already have substantial background knowledge to develop and discuss meaningful mathematics that is new to them on the first day. The classroom activity presented is designed for such a first day experience and focuses on the inevitably varying students' interpretations of fairness when making a group decision and leads smoothly into a discussion of voting systems. We will discuss the actual activity itself, the common achievements and missteps of students when presenting their work on the first day, and how the activity helps define the expectations of student involvement throughout the semester. (Received September 06, 2012)