Joel Louwsma* (jlouwsma@ou.edu), Department of Mathematics, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. Assessing student learning through writing assignments.

Mathematical writing assignments require students to communicate their reasoning to an extent not normally expected on traditional homework assignments and exams. They therefore give greater insight into student thought processes and are especially useful as measures of deeper understanding. In this talk, I will describe how I have used writing assignments in my differential equations courses and discuss some of the advantages and challenges of using writing assignments as a method of student assessment. (Received September 07, 2013)