Examples on using material from a standard college algebra course to enhance students understanding of some social issues.

This work will focus on how the instructor used standard topics of a college algebra course to enhance students’ awareness of relevant social issues. Student, who worked in small groups, used mathematics to study the impact of modifying some parameters in a given mathematical model, analyze the social consequences of the modifications, and give a solution. Topics ranged from crime, marriage and divorce, immigration, education, access to medical care, employment and others are addressed. Numerous tools of assessment such classroom presentation, peer assessment, self-assessment, critiques, interviews, and others were used. (Received September 15, 2013)