The goal of any mathematics class, be it online, hybrid, flipped, or traditional classroom, is to empower students to analyze and solve real-world problems and social issues using the power and rigor of mathematical and statistical models. A challenge is how to interest our students in mathematical problem solving, especially in service courses. I found that two types of written assignments, paired and group projects, enable my students to respond to these challenges. Both assignments integrate real world applications, writing, reading, technology, collaborative work, prompt feedback, and opportunities for revision.

In paired assignments students simulated the Birthday Problem with Excel or used Java applets to predict long term trends in transportation. Students also commented on a peer post by a due date. In group assignments students were solving problems, reviewing their group members’ posts, revising them as necessary, and submitting one final group project containing a revised group work.

I first developed these assignments in my online class and adopted them for the face-to face class in the following semester. I received feedback from both my peers and students and will share specific assignments and feedback in my paper. (Received September 06, 2013)