

1106-A5-979 **Adam F Childers*** (childers@roanoke.edu), 221 College Lane, Salem, VA 24153. *Motivating the Material: Theme-Based Introductory Statistics.*

My institution offers several sections of introductory statistics that focus on a central theme of the instructor's choice. My section is based on statistics in the sports industry and is consistently filled with students interested in this topic. Letting the students have a choice of theme invests them in the course and makes motivating the content much easier than in a traditional introductory course since they are interested in the focus of inquiry. There are many rich and large data sets we use for the course that are current and compelling to the students. Websites like basketballreference.com make it easy to get customized data sets that can captivate the students. In addition to the data sets we find online, the students also attend college games and collect data to see firsthand how difficult collecting data can be and what information is and is not contained in the data. Other projects have the students trying to develop their own statistics to measure the overall performance of basketball players and determining the risks of sustaining multiple concussions in retired football players. (Received September 09, 2014)