

1106-E5-1474 **Katarzyna Kowal*** (kkowal@ramapo.edu), Ramapo College of New Jersey, School of TAS, 505 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. *Enhancing learning in a proof writing course*. Preliminary report.

In this paper the author will describe how math can be combined with humor to enhance learning in a proof writing course, using techniques that have been tested in the classroom. This 200-level course is an introduction to the abstract level of mathematics (after years of mostly computational math courses which students take from elementary through early college education). The jump from the “computational” to the “abstract” produces anxiety in many students, so it is important, particularly in this course, to counteract this anxiety with the use of humor and not by sacrificing the mathematical rigor of the course. Some examples of connecting humor to specific course content will be shown. One of the course goals is to provide students with perspectives on the nature and relevance of mathematics. Such perspectives will be discussed along with analogies and math jokes that effectively reveal the nature and relevance of mathematics. We’ll see that just like a picture can be worth a thousand words, some math jokes can be worth a thousand words when it comes to revealing the nature of mathematics. The author will also describe the effects that the use of humor in this course has on student learning through an analysis of student evaluations, exams, and other results. (Received September 13, 2014)