

1125-A5-741

Benjamin Gaines* (bgaines@iona.edu). *The Practicality of Writing Prompts in Freshman-Level Math Courses.*

In introductory level math classes, writing prompts can be used as part of weekly homework assignments to encourage students to think more deeply about the subject at hand. These writing prompts present a ‘real world’ question in context, and require students to submit a short written response online explaining how the mathematical ideas of the class could be applied in trying to find an answer. These open-ended prompts complement more traditional exercise-based homework, as they allow students to develop their communication and logical reasoning skills while providing some motivation for the concepts being discussed. By creating a detailed rubric and providing it to students ahead of time, these prompts can also be graded without a significant time commitment on the part of the instructor. A sample rubric will be provided, along with examples of some writing prompts and student responses. (Received September 10, 2016)