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Experiences in Using HOM in Community College Prealgebra and Algebra Courses.

Middle school prealgebra and high school algebra are bread-and-butter courses at (two-year) community colleges. Many community colleges even offer arithmetic courses that teach whole-number arithmetic. Many students have some recollection of the topics and skills that are taught in these courses, which makes keeping their attention a challenge, even if their recollections may be vague or faulty. Can drawing from HOM (anecdotes, algorithms, methods, non-symbolic algebra, &c.) engage students actively as they encounter new ways (to them) of ”doing mathematics”? We relate our experiences in this. (Received September 01, 2015)