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**Katarzyna Kowal\***, kkowal@ramapo.edu. *Effective instructional strategies for teaching a Discrete Structures proof writing course.* Preliminary report.

In this paper the author will describe some effective instructional strategies for teaching the course based on her 13 years of experience of teaching it. Discrete Structures is a course that has recently been credited with the Writing Intensive course attribute, which is an attribute required by the college for graduation. The author will present her research on how the Writing Intensive assignments and the WI attribute affect student performance in the course as compared to the semesters before the course became WI. Some pedagogical interventions will be discussed, including: why it is beneficial to introduce formal proof writing in the course slightly earlier than usual, what are some common misconceptions in the area of logic and set theory that should be pointed out to students, and how to inspire the students in the course to become math majors or math minors. Some innovative elements of teaching the course will be shown, including the idea of how to use graph theory to effectively introduce nested quantifiers. The author will present some useful strategies of how to implement the philosophy that mathematics is a language and that students should be able to come up with valid and coherent proofs, and to communicate mathematics with precision, clarity, and organization. (Received September 17, 2017)