Carl Spitznagel* (spitz@jcu.edu), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH 44118. Teaching Mathematical Writing Electronically.

Many undergraduate mathematics programs include a “bridge” course at the sophomore level, with the goal of teaching students how to craft simple proofs and how to write those proofs in good mathematical style. But reading and commenting on thirty or so students’ attempts at the same problem can be a source of frustration for the instructor—as well as for the students as they try to decipher the instructor’s comments. This talk will detail my experiences with using an electronic discussion board in a systematic way, to have students present proofs—and critique each others’ attempts at proofs. The results suggest that, with this approach, even marginal students can produce correct and polished mathematical writing. (Received September 12, 2005)