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Gerald Agbegha* (gagbegha@jcsu.edu), 100 Beatties Ford Road, Johnson C. Smith University, Dept. of Natural Science and Mathematics, Charlotte, NC 28227, and **Nailong Guo**. *Using an Opening Quiz to set the Tone for a College Algebra Course.*

In recent times, I have found it useful to administer an opening quiz in an attempt to set the tone for my college algebra or Precalculus course. It is composed of questions that test the student's knowledge of some fundamental concepts of mathematics relating to such topics as multiplication, division by zero, the coordinate plane, and straight lines. This opening quiz provides us with an opportunity to discuss these topics in a light manner and ease the students into the course having hopefully bridged a little of the gap between their level of preparedness and the expected prerequisite level of understanding of these topics. The quiz is administered around a kind and gentle atmosphere as I make it clear to the students that the quiz will not count against them. Rather, the grade may be used to replace a lower quiz grade later in the semester. In this talk, I will discuss some of my findings on the use of such an opening quiz. Key Words: Opening Quiz, College Algebra, Fundamental concepts of Mathematics (Received September 22, 2009)