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**Robert L Brabenec\*** ([Robert.L.Brabenec@wheaton.edu](mailto:Robert.L.Brabenec@wheaton.edu)), Department of Math/CS, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL 60187. *A Department Colloquium for Sophomores.*

At Wheaton College, we introduced a department colloquium in 1997 as a required one hour course for the mathematics major. The purpose is to introduce our sophomore majors to the experiences of mathematical exploration, research, problem-solving, group work, and oral presentation in an informal setting of about 12 students and 5 department faculty. While there are weekly assignments, there are no examinations. This talk will contain details from the five different topics we have used, along with an assessment of the value of this experience. (Received September 01, 2000)