

1106-A5-2066 **Eric Ruggieri*** (eruggier@holycross.edu), College of the Holy Cross, 1 College Street,
Worcester, MA 01610. *Statistics in the World Around Us – A Group Project for an Introductory
Statistics Course.*

The changing MCAT requirements is creating a new group of students who are now being ‘forced’ to take a statistics course. Some of these students may not see the connection between statistics and their individual field of study. The main idea of the project is to have groups of 2-3 students select a published journal article on a topic of their choice and then present the results of that article to their classmates. The focus of the presentation and subsequent written summary is on the entirety of the statistical process, from formulating a question to drawing the appropriate conclusions based on the statistical analysis. Through this process, students interact with many effective teaching techniques including using real data, incorporating active learning, emphasizing conceptual understanding rather than memorization, honing communication skills (both written and oral), learning to work as part of a team, and providing constant feedback. The overall goals of the project are not only for students to become more effective communicators of statistics, but also for them to see how statistics can be used outside of the classroom. (Received September 15, 2014)