

1106-VS-2773 **Scott M. LaLonde*** (slalonde@uttyler.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Texas at Tyler, 3900 University Boulevard, Tyler, TX 75799. *Projects in an Introductory Abstract Algebra Course*. Preliminary report.

When teaching any mathematics course, I try to instill an appreciation for the material in my students through applications and historical anecdotes. Faced with my first abstract algebra course, I decided to turn this responsibility over to my students. They completed semester-long research projects on applications, history, or special topics, culminating with a presentation in front of the class. I will discuss the structure of the assignment, the projects that each group completed, and the students' comments. Having done this a second time one year later, I will also compare my two experiences and discuss possible improvements. (Received September 16, 2014)