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Developing Intermediate Algebra Students Mathematical Communications via Workspace Assignments in MyLabsPlus. Preliminary report.

In recent times, the use of online learning management software (such as MyLabsPlus and WebAssign) are used more readily in tertiary education courses for assessment purposes. The use of online assessments may not always afford students an opportunity to show their mathematical working, because in many instances only the final answer is required. Hence, there is a need for faculty to focus on the development of students' ability to communicate mathematically in written format. Therefore, we will showcase how we use Pearson (2016) Workspace assignments in MyLabsPlus for homework assignments in which students are required to show all working as they proceed from the given statement to the final solution. When using Workspace, instructors are able to gain insight into students mathematical reasoning as their students' progress. At our institution, we assign one Workspace assignment each week, and students are afforded two opportunities to attempt each workspace assignment, with the higher of the two scores being used. Hence, in this presentation we will provide an overview of workspace, discuss how it is used at our institution, and will discuss the frequency of syntactic errors, and various types of mathematical errors observed. (Received September 19, 2016)