

1116-J1-2169      **Feryal Alayont\*** (alayontf@gvsu.edu), GVSU Math Department, 1 Campus Dr., Allendale, MI 49401. *Mimicking Mathematical Research in Discrete Mathematics*. Preliminary report.

Discrete mathematics contains a wealth of problems that students can investigate with a minimal introduction. I will describe how I use such problems to create a research-like experience for my students in my discrete mathematics courses. Student teams first learn a topic not covered in class without using outside sources so that they are encouraged to be as original as they can be in their understanding. They then further investigate a specific direction within their research topic to obtain possibly new results. These directions could be results obtained by modifying definitions in their topic, looking for results on a specific graph family, providing new proofs to old results, and such. Project topics and the structure of the project as well as the student response to this research experience will be discussed in the presentation. (Received September 22, 2015)