

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP L1, MAA Session on Using Real-World Data to Illustrate Statistical Concepts, I

1003-L1-1100 **Sarah L. Mabrouk*** (smabrouk@frc.mass.edu), Framingham State College, 100 State Street, Framingham, MA 01702-2460. *Real Life and the Statistics in You.*

Personalizing the study of statistics as well as using real data helps students explore data, errors, and sampling, to consider lurking variables and survey questions, and to interpret data and statistics. To that end, my students complete a survey for which the combined class data is used as a tool in our "introduction to statistics" and throughout the course. In addition, the students, assuming the roles of hired statisticians and lawyers as well as judge and jury, analyze the data for the age discrimination case, Martin Vs. Westvaco, presented at the beginning of Watkins, Scheaffer, and Cobb's "Statistics in Action". The "statisticians" and "lawyers" must present their analysis and discussion of the evidence on each side while the jury must evaluate the effectiveness of the analyses, interpretations, and explanations of the data and the statistics as well as make their decision in favor of Mr. Martin or the Westvaco Corporation.

In this presentation, I will discuss my use of the Martin Vs. Westvaco data and our "court" as well as the class survey data. I will present some of the student analysis for both data sets as well as some of the student arguments from our "court". Finally, I will present student reaction to the use of these data sets throughout the course. (Received October 04, 2004)