

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP U1, MAA Session on Mathematical Experiences for Students Outside the Classroom

1003-U1-678 **Emily E. Puckette*** (eep@sewanee.edu), Department of Mathematics, 735 University Avenue, Sewanee, TN 37383. *Group problem-solving on a Low Ropes Course.*

The scene is this: ten strong first year students in a Calculus II course with a computer modeling lab and with an emphasis on team work, discussion and writing. As bright students, they were all used to leading whatever team they were assigned to, and this expectation led to some challenging group dynamics. So as an "outside the classroom" activity, we went to the on-campus low ropes course. The course is essentially a set of team building and problem solving activities. For example, in one exercise students had to line up in order of birthdays without speaking. In another, they had to negotiate the entire team across a multi-sectioned tightrope. The activities required creative solutions, communication, and compromise, all skills very much needed in the classroom and lab. In this talk, I will describe some of the activities, present my students' reactions to the experience, and report on the impact that the low ropes course had on students' group work in class. (Received September 27, 2004)