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Using the Math Forum to teach an Elementary Problem Solving Course for Pre-Service Teachers.

We will discuss how the Math Forum is used in the elementary problem solving course required for all Pre-Service K-8 teachers. The students in the class serve as mentors for K-8 students throughout the country. These K-8 students answer the Math Forum Problem of the Week, and the mentors try to get these students to improve their solution by making comments on both the validity of the steps used to solve the problem and the explanation/presentation of their solution.

We will discuss the training process for the mentors and how the actual mentoring works.

The mentors become better problem solvers as they learn how to determine what a well-written solution looks like, use a grading rubric and make constructive comments to the K-8 students. We will show the evolution of the mentors' responses and of their solutions to homework problems.

Finally, we will show student comments about the mentoring process. Although this is a time intensive project for the mentors, their reactions are very positive. (Received September 26, 2005)