

1014-H1-1525      **Karen Batt Stanish\*** ([kstanish@keene.edu](mailto:kstanish@keene.edu)), Keene State College, Mathematics Department,  
229 Main St., Keene, NH 03435-2010. *Low Stakes Writing Questions*. Preliminary report.

Before they encounter a proof writing or abstract thinking course, many mathematics students believe that all mathematics involves performing computations and finding answers which can be enclosed in a box. To try to dispel this impression I often assign "low stakes" writing questions in courses that do not have a proof writing component. This talk will give examples of different types of writing questions that I have assigned, describe what I hope the students would learn from completing these writing questions, and give some student responses to the use of these writing questions. (Received September 28, 2005)