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Transitions: Using a Variety of Writing Assignments in a Bridge Course. Preliminary report.

There are many interesting stories in mathematical lore that accompany deep mathematics, but undergraduate students may only hear these stories briefly, and only in select upper-division classes. Also, undergraduates may not take the time to step back and examine their own learning process. A bridge course can provide a good opportunity to address both of these issues: to introduce memorable and interesting mathematics to majors early in their careers, and to have students critically evaluate their own progress. In this talk, I will describe the use of various writing assignments (pre-test/post-test, portfolios, and short position papers) in a bridge course to engage students with such topics as Russell's Paradox and the Axiom of Choice, and to encourage them to reflect on their own journey as students of mathematics. (Received September 26, 2006)