

1023-I1-1864 **Rehana Patel*** (patelr@stjohns.edu), St. John's University, Department of Mathematics, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY 11439. *An Inter-disciplinary Writing Project in a Liberal Arts Mathematics Course.*

This talk will describe a semester-long writing assignment that was a key component of a liberal arts mathematics course. Students, mostly freshmen non-math majors, were asked to choose a subject that was of special interest to them, and then to write a paper on a specific way in which mathematics has an impact on it. Topics chosen varied widely: from the symmetries of the Taj Mahal, to combinatorics in Braille symbols, to the fluid dynamics of chocolate flow. Students found that this project provided them with an entry into mathematics, allowing them to engage with it on terms that were meaningful and interesting to them, so that they were led eventually to an appreciation of the subject for itself. (Received September 27, 2006)