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**Shumei C Richman\*** ([richmans@midlandstech.edu](mailto:richmans@midlandstech.edu)), Shumei C. Richman, 220 North Woodlake Dr., Columbia, SC 29229. *A Guideline for Students to Master the Skills of Writing Equations for Words Problems*. Preliminary report.

Abstract. In beginning algebra, one of the most important tasks is to solve words problems by equations. However, most students have difficulties in writing correct equations for given words problems. After analyzing students' mistakes, I realize that for them solving words problems is a complicated process in which English sentences are to be translated into math sentences, with some hidden math concepts. This process requires various skills, such as skills of reading English, skills of organizing data, skills of using math operations, and skills of reading and writing math as a language. It usually takes a lot of thinking before they can master all these skills. Therefore, a guideline is provided for them to do their thinking. In this talk, we will discuss the guideline and the recommended thinking process. (Received September 25, 2006)