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**Sarah L Mabrouk\*** ([smabrouk@frc.mass.edu](mailto:smabrouk@frc.mass.edu)), Framingham State College, Mathematics Department, 100 State Street, Framingham, MA 01702-2499. *Why Should I Take Statistics? - Let's "Talk"*.

Guiding students to an understanding of how to apply and to interpret statistics is challenging. Helping students to gain an understanding of and an appreciation for the application of Statistics in various disciplines facilitates greater understanding as well as enables students to value their study of Statistics. At Framingham State College, MATH 117 Introduction to Statistics is a required/recommended course for major concentrations offered by eleven departments. Since fall 2003, students enrolled in the Honors section have explored the application of Statistics in these disciplines. This exploration has grown to include interviews of faculty teaching in these disciplines, presentation of these interviews online, and online discussion of the use of Statistics in these disciplines among the students in the dual enrollment section. Through online discussions, students gain a deeper understanding of how they may use Statistics in the future as well as learn how their instructors may use Statistics. So, as students "talk" online, they reflect on the importance and usefulness of the aspects Statistics that they study. In this presentation, I will discuss the evolution of this course component, the students' reaction to its use, and the students' online interaction. (Received September 15, 2008)