

1056-Q1-1177 **Jinfeng Wei*** (jwei@maryville.edu), 650 Maryville University Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141, and
Guangwei Fan and **Min Deng**. *Teaching Reform in College Algebra*. Preliminary report.

In College Algebra course, most of the students are either business or social work majors who are taking the course with the primary goal of applying the concepts in other courses. Students often arrive with poor attitudes toward the subject because of past undesirable mathematical experiences. An effective strategy to teach such students is to firstly create a comfortable atmosphere to interest them. Another common problem in this course is that most of students have trouble with story problems. To improve student's mathematical thinking and ability to solve problems, I emphasized on teaching how to analyze and solve story problems in class and changed the regular weekly in-class quizzes to projects presentations. The students evaluated the reform as an effective teaching style to improve their ability of problem solving. (Received September 21, 2009)