

1056-Q1-1732 **Edwin Prine Herman*** (eherman@uwsp.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481. *Do discussion boards improve statistical reasoning skills?* Preliminary report.

Last spring I revamped my Introduction to Statistics course, shifting the focus from acquisition of methods to their application. I added readings on major topics (such as Global Warming and the Economy) and had students post comments and analysis in small discussion boards. Every few weeks, students would then write short papers on the topics, using statistics to support their arguments. The purpose of the discussion boards was to improve the statistical reasoning skills of the students by having them discuss ideas and facts with each other. If the boards were successful, student papers should show evidence of ideas posted by other students. Analysis of this evidence will be presented, as will student perceptions of the effectiveness of the boards and papers in teaching statistical ideas and methods. (Received September 22, 2009)