

1056-Z1-1448      **Jeremy Case\*** (jrcase@taylor.edu), Taylor University, 236 W. Reade Ave, Upland, IN 46989.  
*Reflection Papers on the Big Ideas.*

What mathematical ideas should students carry with them years after a course ends? For many undergraduates, their sole focus during and after a course is on technique and symbolic manipulations rather than the broader concepts and applications. Reflection papers can be used to help students identify and review the important parts of a course. The presenter was part of a faculty learning community which explored the use of reflection papers as a learning tool. Rather than write about how they met the course objectives, students reflected on the "big ideas" of the course. According to Ken Bain's book, *What the Best College Teachers Do*, a characteristic of exceptional teachers is that they find and ask the "big questions" within their specific discipline, believing that students learn best when they care about finding the answer or adopt a goal they want to reach. In this session, the presenter will provide various "big ideas" reflections he has used in mathematics courses, report on the findings of other members of the learning community, and share how the process of developing the writing prompts significantly changed the community's approach towards teaching and course design. (Received September 21, 2009)