



SOCAMATYC CONFERENCE  
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# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN MATH COURSES

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# MY JOURNEY TO BETTER STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

HOW A MATH MAJOR WHO LIKED RULES AND PROCEDURES BEGAN TO ENGAGE WITH HER STUDENTS

# NIGHT STUDENTS

- Overwhelmed with the list of Practice Problems

	Assigned Problems	Bonus Problems
2.1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5-99 odd	20, 32, 50, 76, 84, 90
2.2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7- 91 odd	12, 26, 46, 62, 72, 80
2.3	2, 4, 5, 6, 7- 69 odd	10, 22, 44, 52, 60, 76
2.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-79 odd	14, 24, 32, 40, 48, 54
2.5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 -75 odd	18, 30, 42, 54, 58, 64

List of problems from  
Woodbury's Elementary and Intermediate Algebra 2012

# OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM @ USC

- First generation college student
- Low income students-family is below the poverty line
- Counselors assigned to each student
- Students were in a Cohort.
- Met every two weeks to discuss problems and joys.



# FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITIES (FLC)

- NFLC 2012

No major course work the first week

Learn students' names

Team building/ Ice breaker exercises

Bring initial email for class participation points



- FLC 2013

## Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS Accreditation

- (1.) Connect Students to College Resources
- (2.) Developing Information and Technology Literacy
- (3.) Making Learning Visible (Metacognition)
- (4.) Developing Classroom Skills and Behaviors



# ENGAGING STUDENTS

GETTING THEIR BUY-IN

# STUDENT ISSUES (OR ROADBLOCKS) TO LEARNING

- High School Training

No need to study

Pick it up quickly

- “Feel” (or Fear) not able to learn Math
- Do not know how to study for Math classes



MIDLANDS  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



# SET THE “MOOD”

- Initial email
- Scavenger Hunt
- Sign my door
- Student Information Questionnaire-Google Forms

Put link under Content

Email it through D2L Brightspace



- Student Info. Questionnaire

(1.) What did previous Math Teachers (or Instructors) do well?

“I don’t know. Most of my professors have been subpar at best.”

“Repetition.”

“Give a Practice Test.”

- Student Info. Questionnaire

(2.) You know yourself best: what do you need to do to be successful in a Math class?

“Focus on math and not social media.”

“Do the homework”

“I must practice over and over before the test.”



- Student Info. Questionnaire

(3.) What are the most annoying behaviors of other students?

“Talking and/or laughing while the teacher is teaching.”

“Tapping pen on desk.”

“Taking off shoes and smelling bad.”

“Asking why we need to learn this.”

# SET THE “MOOD”

- “Time Management: Am I too busy?”
- Course Contract

Course Points:		Grading Scale:		
<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>15 pts.</b>	<b>90-100</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Superior Work</b>
<b>Online Homework</b>	<b>100 pts.</b>	<b>80-89</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Good Work</b>
<b>Tests</b>	<b>500 pts.</b>	<b>70-79</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Average Work</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>100 pts.</b>	<b>60-69</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Below Average Work</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>715 pts.</b>	<b>0- 59</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory Work</b>

1) Class Participation Points (Everyone begins with 7 points)

- o To earn points in the first few weeks:
  1. First Week: bring in initial email, enroll in MML, find my office and sign the sheet for your class, fill out the Student Information questionnaire posted on D2L Brightspace;
  2. Third Week: Turn in Scavenger Hunt (Due January 28).
- o To Lose Points throughout the semester, do the following in class:  
Use phone or laptop, do another class's work, be disruptive, forget to silence your phone, put your head down and/or go to sleep, forget to bring your calculator or paper and pencil/pen.

# THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER

- Hold students accountable (Pull aside after class/before class)
- Keep same standard for all
- Be NICE!- Many students don't get professors.
- Ask questions (Mention SCTCS FAP)

Pause often and make time for them to work in class

Walk around the room answering questions as you go

- Activities to earn Class Participation points

Work a problem on the board

Bring in worked problems (2 or so problems)

Go to Tutoring or Office Hours

- Get to know them (Outside of class)

Use some of their initial exercises to prompt conversations

Ask about anything but MATH





# REMEMBER WHY YOU TEACH

MODEL THIS IN YOUR CLASSES

“I TEACH BECAUSE I LOVE ACADEMIA”

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# HANDOUTS

## Scavenger Hunt-MAT 101 Beginning Algebra

Class Participation Points: 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: January 28

1.) Location of the Academic Success Center (ASC) and the services it offers.

- o Where is the ASC located on the Airport Campus?(Building Code and Room number) \_\_\_\_\_
- o What are the hours it is open on Airport? \_\_\_\_\_
- o What hours do the math tutors work on Airport? \_\_\_\_\_
- o Thinking of your class schedule (and possible work schedule), which of those times works best for you? \_\_\_\_\_

2.) Sign in on MyMathLab at [www.mymathlab.com](http://www.mymathlab.com). Be sure to write down your username and password.

- o Use the *Help Me Solve This, Animation or Video* feature on one of your homework problems.
- o Which problem did you pick and feature did you use? Example: Section 2.1 #3, help me solve this \_\_\_\_\_

Answer these questions: Was it helpful? What did you like or dislike about it? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

3.) Read through the Syllabus and the Academic Affairs Student Guidelines and Expectations on D2L Brightspace.

(Username and password are the same as on MyMTC.) Answer these questions. For the true/false questions: when an answer is false, state what would make the statement true.

- a) Who is the Math Department Chair and what is his/her phone number? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What is Mrs. McCoy's Office Hours? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What is Mrs. McCoy's Office Room Number? Example: AC 215. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) The Final Exam for my class is schedule for the following date and times: \_\_\_\_\_
- e) True or False. Cell phones can be used during class.
- f) True or False. If you have a disability requiring special accommodations, you should speak directly to your instructor for your accommodation.
- g) If there is inclement weather, school closings will be posted on local news stations. True or False.
- h) How many points does your online homework count? What percentage of your grade does your homework count?
- i) True or False. I am allowed to miss 4 classes without being dropped.
- j) True or False. There are no make-up assignments for tests or assignments missed.

4.) What is your major? Do you have more Math classes to take? If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

## ***TIME MANAGEMENT***: Am I too busy?

1. How many hours do you work per week, plus commuting time? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many hours per week are you in class on average, plus commuting time? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many hours on average do you spend during the week doing the following activities?
  - Watching TV \_\_\_\_\_
  - Reading \_\_\_\_\_
  - Listening to Music/Seeing Shows \_\_\_\_\_
  - Eating \_\_\_\_\_
  - Grocery Shopping \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cooking \_\_\_\_\_
  - Exercising \_\_\_\_\_
  - Relaxing \_\_\_\_\_
  - Taking care of pets \_\_\_\_\_
  - Children's activities (Sport's practice, Dance, Homework, etc...) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Household chores \_\_\_\_\_
  - Yardwork \_\_\_\_\_
  - Shower/hair/getting ready \_\_\_\_\_
  - Internet surfing \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

Add the hours of the activities above \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many hours on average do you sleep each night? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. How many hours on average do you sleep each week? \_\_\_\_\_
- Add the numbers of hours above from 1-3, and 5. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Subtract the total from 24 hours a day for 7 days (168 hours per week). \_\_\_\_\_

The final number represents how many hours per week you have left available for homework/studying for all of your classes.

### **Answer the following questions:**

Are you overscheduled? Do you have adequate time to complete all of your school related activities?

If not, what can you change above to make time for school?

From Faculty Learning Community 3 (2012)

