

Some thoughts on support for Math 145 and 200 (from Cheryl)

Math 145

1. I would like to require students to take the draft of their first essay to the writing center. I would like feedback on who will need additional support with: organization, inclusion of all elements of the assignment, clarity of writing. Then I would like to individualize the requirements on draft work for the 2nd and 3rd essay based on this assessment. I do not expect the writing center staff to grade the actual mathematics content; that is my job. I do want to guide students to write more clearly so that their mathematics content is clearly presented and written in precise language. Overuse of pronouns where the antecedent becomes unclear is an issue in these papers.
2. For the final project, I would like to have draft support for students still struggling with writing issues, certainly not the whole class. This is a pairs project, so issues of dealing with pairs writing together need to be discussed.
3. I would like all students to have access to the writing lab on each draft they feel the need, even if they are not on our "needy" list.
4. For myself, I would like help developing a grading rubric that is general enough to be applicable to all essays and includes some writing elements [if it is not worth points many students do not take us seriously.]

Math 200

1. This class had one major writing assignment done in groups of 2 or 3. This assignment is structured with several intermediate checkpoints. Checkpoints 1 and 2 are data collection and data processing. Ken and I will check those gates. The third check point is a draft. Currently the draft is due one week prior to the paper, but that could be changed to accommodate writing center visits. The writing center will be overwhelmed if all Math 200 students bring in these projects.
2. Perhaps we can design shorter writing assignment earlier in the semester to identify students for whom assistance with the draft will be most beneficial and leave a writing center draft review as optional for other groups. The question then becomes who sees the draft first the STAT Prof or the writing center, or does it make a difference.
3. As Stat students do not have class on Fridays and we keep an open lab on Fridays, perhaps some writing assistance could be scheduled in the Math Computer Lab.
4. Suggestions on our ever evolving grading rubric will be welcome.

Ken and I can produce papers from previous semesters for study this semester.