

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP A1, MAA Session on Getting Students To Discuss and To Write About Mathematics, I

1003-A1-269      **Lisa J Carnell\*** (lcarnell@highpoint.edu), High Point University, University Station, Montlieu Avenue, High Point, NC 27262. *Using student-designed projects in an introductory statistics course: How's, what's, and why bother?* Preliminary report.

In the introductory statistics course that I teach, topics include exploratory data analysis, data collection methods, and basic inferential procedures. At times these topics may seem somewhat removed from students' daily experiences. In order to bridge the gap between statistical practice and students' experiences and to demonstrate the real-life applications of statistics, I use a student-designed data collection and analysis project. In this talk I will discuss the nature of this task including how the project proposal and the final oral and written reports are structured. I will also discuss the benefits to students from this experience including increased enthusiasm for the subject of statistics, increased clarity of thought about statistical concepts from having to struggle with these concepts first hand, and increased interaction among students as they discuss and present ideas to their peers. (Received September 06, 2004)