

1067-G1-911      **Mindy Beth Capaldi\*** (mindy.capaldi@valpo.edu), 1900 Chapel Dr., Valparaiso, IN 46383.  
*Teaching Proofs in Abstract Algebra: How important are proof structure, group work, and student presentations?*

In addition to learning the material in Abstract Algebra, one of the most vital aspects of the class is the enhancement of the students' proof-writing abilities. Students may enter the class from different proof-writing backgrounds with varying levels of confidence about their proofs. In this class, I investigated the importance of teaching proofs with an emphasis on rigorous structure, as well as the benefits/drawbacks of assigning proofs as group work to be presented to the class by a group member. Goals included increasing student self and peer assessment of proof logic and flow, and reduction of proof memorization in favor of direct involvement. In this presentation, I discuss the results as evaluated through grade assessment and student feedback. (Received September 16, 2010)