

1145-VK-248 **Irina Seceleanu*** (iseceleanu@bridgew.edu), Department of Mathematics, 24 Park Ave,
Bridgewater, MA 02325. *Scaffolding Proofs in a First Course in Real Analysis.*

Teaching students to correctly develop and write proofs in a first course in Real Analysis is a daunting task. It is common for students at this introductory level to struggle with the basic structure of their proofs, confuse hypotheses and conclusions, and feel completely lost by the creative thought process required of constructing the argument of a proof. In this talk, I will introduce a method of scaffolding the writing of proofs both by parsing the conclusion statement and by using outlines for different proof structures. I will present specific examples using various proofs from discrete mathematics and introductory analysis. This method has helped many of my students gain the mathematical maturity needed to correctly set up a proof and overcome the anxiety of the creative process required of proving. This technique evolved over many years of teaching introductory analysis and has improved the learning of students in my Introduction to Real Analysis class. (Received August 24, 2018)