

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, SS 2A, AMS-MAA-MER Special Session on Mathematics and Education Reform, I

1003-97-1133      **Connie M Campbell\*** (campbcm@millsaps.edu), Box 150086, Millsaps College, 1701 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39210. *Symbolic Logic in a Proofs Course: Finding the Right Balance*. Preliminary report.

Symbolic logic plays a critical role in a first course in proof writing (a bridge course) by providing students with some of the fundamental skills necessary for developing logical arguments. However, when teaching a bridge course, the goal is not only to teach students how to read and write mathematical proofs, but also to move them from algorithmic thinking to critical, and even creative, thinking. It has been the experience of the author that this transition can be greatly hindered by either an overemphasis, or an underemphasis, on symbolic logic. She will discuss problems that she has experienced from bridge courses which erred on either of these two extremes, as well as discuss what she has found to be the right balance for her classroom. A course outline and classroom activities will be discussed as well. (Received October 04, 2004)