

RE-THINKING STAT 101

Martha Bilotti-Aliaga, The University of Michigan, USA

Statistics 100 at the University of Michigan is the Introductory Statistics class which many undergraduate students take to fulfil a quantitative graduation requirement. Four years ago we introduced the use of the graphing calculator to teach this large class (150+ students per room). We combined the use of the TI (82) 83 with highly interactive cooperative learning, and used relevant data from real life to solve problems. The use of the TI 83 has the tremendous advantage of providing immediate feedback to inquiries. This allows students to spend more classroom time applying and extending skills than was previously possible when time consuming calculations were required. Instead of spending time calculating, students spend time thinking. This technology has transformed the classroom from a place where students come to listen to a lecturer to a place where students come to learn and perform. A change has taken place from a focus on statistical methods to a focus on statistical thinking.