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Let's Think Together: Using Oral Assessments to Develop Students' Thought Process

MATH 135 is one of the fundamental courses in the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo. It is the course where students learn how to prove mathematical statements rigorously. Since the goal is to teach students a particular thought process, I decided to hold an oral midterm to give students an opportunity to reflect on problems that they have never seen before along with their instructor. In my presentation, I will tell you more about this experience, and share my personal view on the advantages and disadvantages of this approach. If time allows, I will also give a demonstration of the midterm, which was held using the Bongo platform.