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Helping Students Connect Math to Their Own Lives

This talk will present some observations and details about student projects in a first year math concepts course. The course is for students planning on going into elementary education or as an elective for arts students, so many of them do not see themselves as mathematical thinkers. The goal of the project is to help them connect math to their own lives in a meaningful way. The project has evolved over the years from a written paper to an in-person math fair to a virtual math fair with many different forms of communication.