

**Tools for Thought:** Some Sample Student Self-assessment  
Comments at the End of the Semester

“Also, I really liked the combination of math and English. It made me look more closely at models and predictions for anything going on in the world.”

“The inclusion of math in this class has taught me that math is not just used for solving equations but also for predicting things about the real world. It has taught me to think based on facts.”

“The mathematical models taught me that math can be part of the world we live in.”

“This class has been extremely beneficial to me in many ways. I’ve spent a lot of time analyzing not only other people’s writing, but my own writing as well. I can now read deeper than just the words on the page and write about conclusions I have made from my observations. Mathematical models are very helpful, because they allow me to relate math, which is not my favorite subject, and English, a subject I like, on the same page. Since I’m not very good at math, being able to pair it with English, a subject I am good at, helps with my understanding. It shows me how math and English are everywhere together, and it improves my math grade because I usually do good on my essays.”

“Never before have I applied mathematics to real life situations, it was interesting finally getting to do that. The predictions from the models made the topics fun to learn about and discuss.”

“I learned important stuff affecting our world today that I never really thought of before such as salmon and wolf populations and how AIDS is affecting people around the world. The mathematical models in the course taught me how to use data as evidence to prove points and how to tie things together that don’t seem that obvious, such as running times and equality.”

“I am learning that mathematics is not a useless tool, but has a definite purpose in the way we perceive societal differences . . . I’ve learned to think logically when viewing opposing viewpoints . . . . The combination of English essays and mathematical models helped me to understand how the government relies on mathematics to sustain man’s upward mobility.”