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College algebra drills or applications?

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Francis Marion University has been teaching college algebra since the school's establishment in the early 1970s. We tried an experiment using applications and projects to motivate the college algebra. Our students had many positive comments about the experience. In this article, we give a few illustrative examples of the applications/projects used and share some student comments. Based on the overall positive experience, two new freshman algebra courses were added using modeling and problem solving as their framework. (authors' abstract)

Classification: H34

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