

Mathematical Autobiography Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to have you reflect on your experiences with mathematics. This will set the stage for all the (possibly different) ways you will experience mathematics in this class. The autobiography will also help us learn how you feel about mathematics and what you have experienced in mathematics classes, and will help me create the course for you. The audience is just us, your professor and teaching assistant, and in some sense you.

Assignment: Write a two page mathematical autobiography. Include some of your early experiences, some experiences with teachers (in any grade), both good and bad ones, how your attitude towards mathematics has changed over the years (if it did), why you like it or don't like it, what feels good about doing math or learning math or teaching math, what is scary for you, what is exciting for you, . . .

Please also include some information about your experiences with mathematics classes in college.

Is there an aspect of mathematics that particularly interests you? — perhaps some mathematical fact, some application of mathematics, or some topic within mathematics?

I am also curious to know what you believe mathematics is. How would you define mathematics to someone who doesn't know anything about it?