

## Journal Assignment

### Reflection Journal Assignment

Your performance in the course is determined not by whether or not you are creative, but how you successfully integrate what you've learned. Your journal will assist both you and us in understanding how you are reacting to and developing as a function of the exercises in the course. Throughout most classes, I will try to take some time to reflect on the activities of the day and to ask you to reflect upon them. But you will need to continue writing and documenting your thoughts at home. Journaling can be a great opportunity to know yourself as you are; it is the first step in recognizing old and worn out habits and to cultivating new ones. As part of journaling, you will be asked to organize the mathematical ideas discussed in class but in a way that makes it your OWN. The journal should also contain reflections about your process of learning.

The journal assignment is your opportunity to reflect on musings that you have, both in and out of class, and to collect your thoughts in a cumulative and creative way about the connections you see between mathematics and your life.

- 1.) You will be given a journal prompt periodically. You have one week to respond to these prompts. Some weeks, you may have a "free write", in which case you can write about anything related to mathematics or to the course.
- 2.) You are not restricted to text entries. In fact, some prompts will ask you to upload pictures, videos, or music, for example. Think outside the bounds of what you envision a typical "journal" to be to tap into your creative talents.

The guidelines:

- 1.) Each journal entry should be at least one page (double spaced). You may be inspired to write more than that. We don't want the length of the entry to restrict your creativity. This is just to give you an idea of the minimum expectations.
- 2.) Your journal will be cumulative. That is, you will be adding entries to the same document. Please organize these in reverse chronological order (most recent entry on top).
- 3.) Date and title each journal entry. Be creative with your titles.
- 4.) Each time you submit an entry, submit the entire (cumulative) journal up to that point.

How you will be graded:

- 1.) You will receive a A/C/F grade for each entry.
- 2.) Here are the questions I will be asking as I read your journal:

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- a. How well organized is the journal? Does it adhere to the requirements stated above? (Has title, is in reverse chronological order, etc.)
  - b. How deeply did you think about your entry?
  - c. How interesting/creative/original is your entry?
  - d. How much reflection appears to have gone into your entry?
  - e. Is progress/evolution/development of ideas and thoughts evident in the journal?
- 3.) Please see Canvas for sample journal entry. This is only meant to give you an idea of the depth and thought that should go into each entry. The content, presentation format, and ideas are, of course, up to you to determine.