

Guidelines for Paper 2: A Mathematical Biography

Proposal due: Feb. 27

Draft and Draft Cover Letter due: March 11

Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due: March 25

TOPIC: A MATHEMATICAL BIOGRAPHY

Choose one of the mathematicians from ancient Greece (listed below) and sketch their mathematical biography.

Choose from:

- Pythagoras
- Euclid
- Archimedes

Bibliographical sources: You should use at least **four** bibliographical sources, out of which only one may be an online source. I suggest that **three**, out of your four sources, should be your two textbooks: *Journey through Genius* and *Math through the Ages*, and the online source *MacTutor History of Mathematics Archives*. Use UCONN's library to find another print source (an e-version is acceptable).

Your paper should include:

- A brief personal biography, including relevant dates, places, facts and anecdotes.
- A description of mathematical accomplishments, which need not contain proofs, but should be detailed and accurate. In particular, include brief statements regarding the state of knowledge on each topic prior to the work on the topic by the mathematician you are writing about, and a description of what was innovative in his approach or results.
- An analysis, with supporting evidence, of the impact these mathematical accomplishments had on the future development of mathematics. In particular, describe briefly results and/or areas of mathematics that were created, or deeply affected, by the work of the mathematician you are writing about.

The purpose of this assignment is to help you achieve a deep understanding of the significance of the contributions to mathematics made by important mathematical figures from ancient times.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

All submissions are expected in both formats: in class (hard copy) and email (.pdf).

- **The Proposal** (1-2 pages long) is **due on Feb 27**. You should say which mathematician you plan to write about and include a short annotated bibliography: list at least four sources, describe the content of each one, and explain how it will help you write your paper (2-4 sentences per source).
- **The Draft** is due on **March 11**. Your draft should be a "good faith" draft: a paper that you feel would fulfill the assignment. You must also submit a Draft Cover Letter (see cover letter templates on the next page)
- **The final version** of the paper is **due on March 25**. Submit it in a folder with your Final Version Cover Letter.
- Only the final version of the paper will be graded, but in order to receive credit for your paper you must submit the Proposal, the Draft, the Draft Cover Letter, and the Final Version Cover Letter.

Remember that **no late submissions are accepted** unless there is a serious emergency for which you provide proof.

FORMAT:

- Length: about 5 pages (1250-1500 words)
- Font: 12-point Times New Roman or similar
- Layout: double-spaced and 1" page margins
- References and citations: Use APA, MLA, or other consistent reference and citation style (see the links in The Papers section of the course's webpage, and also the style of references in the Bibliography of your textbook B&G).

Remember that whenever you're quoting or paraphrasing other people's work, you must provide a citation!

Please use the following text as a template for your Draft Cover Letter.

Dear Professor Gageonea,

In this draft, I am trying to...

I think that the strongest parts of this draft are...

What I struggled with most was...

My top two priorities for revising are...

I know that I also need to work on...

At this point, I would like to ask you...

Sincerely,

Please use the following text as a template for your Final Version Cover Letter.

Dear Professor Gageonea,

In this paper, I am trying to...

In my first draft, I...

Given the feedback I received on that draft, I decided to...because...

I concentrated most of my efforts for this final version on...

I think that the strongest parts of this paper are... I'm especially proud of...

What I struggled with most was...

As you read this paper, please keep...in mind.

Sincerely,