

Guidelines for Paper 2: A Mathematical Biography

Draft and Draft Cover Letter due: Tuesday, October 10

Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due: Tuesday, October 24

TOPIC: A MATHEMATICAL BIOGRAPHY

Choose: Choose one of the mathematicians listed below and sketch their mathematical biography:

- 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:

- **The Draft** is due on Tuesday, October 10. 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 Tuesday, October 24. Submit it together with your Draft and your Final Version Cover Letter.
- The Draft and Draft Cover Letter will be returned with comments on Tuesday, October 17. Only the final version of the paper will be graded, but in order to receive credit for your paper you must submit 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 a scholarly and consistent reference and citation style (preferred citation style: see the style of references in the Bibliography of your textbooks B&G. Other acceptable styles: see the links in The Papers section of the course's webpage).

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 Glaz,

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 Glaz,

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,