

Guidelines for Paper 1: The Story of Zero

Draft and Draft Cover Letter due: Tuesday, September 11

Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due: Tuesday, September 25

Topic: The Story of Zero

Sketch the story of the number zero from its ancient origins to the present days.

Limit your reading to:

- B&G: Sketch #3: Nothing Becomes a Number: The Story of Zero
- MTM: A History of Zero
<http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/HistTopics/Zero.html>
- A source for a cultural or artistic implication of the number 0 (may be the same as that used to answer Exercise 2 of your first group-work)

Your paper should include:

- Relevant historical dates and names of the mathematicians associated with the number zero.
- The historical development of the notion of zero and its uses in the advancement of mathematics.
- Examples of cultural or artistic implications of this number.

The purpose of this assignment is to help you achieve an in-depth overview on how an important mathematical idea and its changing role through history contribute to the development of mathematics.

Submission instructions:

- The Draft is due on Tuesday, September 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 Tuesday, September 25. Submit it in a folder with your Draft, your Draft Cover Letter, and your Final Version Cover Letter.
- The Draft and Draft Cover Letter will be returned with comments on Tuesday, September 18. 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 3 pages (750-900 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 textbook 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,