

Math 310 Problem Solving for High School Teachers

Spring 2016

Lecturer: Dr. Paullin

Writing Assignment 1-Math Autobiography

Your autobiography is your life story - a first person account of who you are as a person and the events and experiences that have helped shape you.

Your mathematical autobiography is the story of who you are as a mathematician and a student of mathematics. In it, you relate the events and experiences that have shaped your mathematical development.

Your assignment is to write your mathematical autobiography. It should be about two single spaced typed pages, but it's fine if yours is longer. If yours is shorter, that probably means that you haven't thought hard enough about what to include (in addition to not fulfilling the requirements of the assignment.)

You should type your autobiography, and I encourage you to include photographs and artwork to complement it in a way that makes your autobiography unique.

Your autobiography does NOT need to be comprehensive. It should NOT contain every single detail that you can remember about your math education. ("In first grade, I had Mrs. Smith. She was mean. In the second grade, I had Mrs. Jones. I liked her because she gave me candy every day.") Instead, focus on the people and experiences that had significant impacts on you.

Some questions to focus your thoughts are listed here. You do not need to answer all of the questions, and you by no means are limited to these questions, they are just to get you thinking.

Think back on your mathematical history in both High School and College.

- (1) What was the last math course you took?
- (2) In general, how would you describe your ability in math?
- (3) What factors contributed to your success or non-success in math?
- (4) Which math courses did you like/dislike? Why did you like/dislike them?
- (5) What did you like/dislike about your math instructors? Who was your favorite and why?

Where are you at currently?

- (1) What is your major?
- (2) What is your current year in school?
- (3) Why are you taking this course?
- (4) List and describe any anxieties you have about taking this course.

What are your future plans?

- (1) What do you want to do when you graduate?
- (2) How is taking this course going to help you achieve your goals in college/life?

- (3) List and describe at least 3 goals you would like to reach in this course.
- (4) For each of these goals, list three things you think you will need to do to insure success in achieving the goal.

Your Math Autobiography is due in class on **Wednesday, January 20th.**