

1. Read the Course Goals and Policies.
2. Type a letter to me, or an essay. First off ...at some point (it could be before the letter, or in the signature, or in the midst of the letter) tell me what name you'd like me to use for you, your major (and minor, if you have one) – or what majors and/or minors you're leaning toward, the e-mail address you'd like me to use if I have to e-mail the class, and what your hometown is. The main point of the letter is to tell me why you are choosing to take this class, what your past experiences of math have been, and to give your reactions to the course goals and policies. You may choose to focus on one or two specific events in your past, or points in the Goals and Policies, or you may choose to write a more broad reaction. You may choose to agree or disagree with something I said, or discuss your excitement or fear about something, or you may choose to react in some other way.
3. You should respond in some depth, so that I really get a sense of where you're coming from. Please be honest, there's no need to "suck up":)
4. You may hand this in to me at the beginning of class Monday or e-mail it to me before class. My e-mail address is jsklensk@wheatonma.edu. (I have a Mac, so only send it to me as an attachment if you used Word on the Mac, otherwise just type directly into the message.)

The points of this assignment are to

1. help me get to know you better as an individual: what are your past experiences in math? What are your hopes, fears, aspirations for this class?
2. ensure that you've read the policies and goals, that you are in the right class for you, that you understand what you need to do to succeed and what I expect, and that you understand the specific course policies.

Thus please be focused, support your feelings and reactions with past experiences (a particularly good, bad, or quirky past class perhaps). Also please pay attention to making it readable for me: I care about spelling, phrasing, grammar and clarity just as much as anybody else!