

1. Read the Course Goals and Policies, as well as the homework guidelines.
2. Type a letter to me, or an essay.
  - The main focus 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 and the homework guidelines. 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.
  - You should respond in some depth, so that I really get a sense of where you're coming from. Be honest – there's no need to “suck up”:)
  - 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, and the e-mail address you'd like me to use if I have to e-mail you or the class as a whole. I'd also like to know what your hometown is, just for fun.
  - Also at some point, I'd like you to tell me your major (and minor, if you have one) – or what majors and/or minors you're leaning toward.
3. You may hand this in to me at the beginning of class Wednesday (or any time before) or e-mail it to me before class on 1/28/09. My e-mail address is [jsklensk@wheatonma.edu](mailto:jsklensk@wheatonma.edu).

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 and homework guidelines, 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!