

End of Semester Self-Reflection Essay

Example assignment from MATH 1112 Calculus II

Overview

This assignment is an opportunity for you to reflect on your learning journey this semester, to describe that journey to me, and to help me decide your final grade. You will write a reflective essay in response to some prompts and then submit a pdf or Word doc file here.

We have a "final exam time" scheduled by the college. In lieu of an exam, that time slot will instead be used as a final opportunity to ask questions and get help on your assignments, including this one.

Prompts

You may structure your essay in whatever order/style makes sense for what you have to say. Don't feel like you necessarily have to answer all these questions in this specific order. As long as your essay somehow addresses each main prompt, you're all good.

1. **What mathematical ideas from this course did you find most interesting, and why?** For instance, tell me about an example from our notes, or a class discussion we had, or some application problem you solved. What made it interesting *to you*?
2. **What mathematical ideas are you curious to know more about as a result of this course?** Give an example of a question about the course material that you would like to explore further, and describe why it's an interesting question *to you*.
3. **Tell me about any mathematical ideas you struggled with this semester, and describe how that struggle was valuable for you.** This could be a specific homework problem, or a "big idea" we learned about in class, or even something about being a student and what it means to learn and do mathematics. Have your experiences this semester helped you develop any skills that may help you in the future?
4. **Based on the work you have done all semester, and the stated goals for this course, what would you say is a reasonable grade?** Consult our list of [course learning objectives](#) and describe your progress on the major themes of our course. Tell me anything about the knowledge and skills you have gained that might be helpful for me to know. In addition, consult our [guidelines for final letter grades](#), and describe how your work this semester aligns with a particular letter grade. I may end up choosing a grade that is not what you argued for, but I will take this essay into consideration, along with your body of work from this course.

Submission Guidelines

- Use whatever standard formatting (fonts and margins) that you are used to.
- Submit a pdf or Word Doc here on EC Learn. (If you use Google Docs, you can download a pdf to submit.)
- I do not expect a formal research essay. But please use good grammar, spelling, and organization.
- *Suggestion:* Reread your essay at least once before submitting it. As much as you can, pretend that you're reading *someone else's writing* and be on the lookout for any typos, confusing sentences, or anything that could be improved.
- **Something around 3 to 4 pages sounds about right.**
 - More is okay, but not too much more. And less is *okay* but probably not enough for you to say everything you need to say.
 - I mean, remember that **this is the last thing I'll read from you** all semester! I'll be reading this essay while deciding on a final semester grade.
 - This is your chance to describe what went well for you this semester, to tell me about what you've learned and how that learning occurred during the semester.
 - This is also your chance to show me how you've been thinking about all of the topics we've learned and how they connect. I'm hoping to see some writing that shows you're thinking carefully about everything and reflecting on your learning journey.
- Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I look forward to reading your essays!