Note: These are the tentative journal assignments I intend to give this semester. I’ve also listed the tentative dates I intend to assign and collect these assignments. (The first one is due soon after the start of the semester, so it’s actually exactly what I will assign on the first day of class.) As explained in my course policy sheet, I collect journals via email and grade them on a 0-7-10 scale. On the first assignment only, I’ll probably give students a chance to redo the assignment if necessary.

1. Describe your prior experiences with mathematics, starting at time zero. You may describe your entire mathematical history, or if you prefer, you may discuss a shorter period (or incident) in more detail, depending on what is more interesting or informative. You may wish to write about things you, your parents, or your teachers did which made your experience better or worse.

   **Assigned:** January 8;  **Due:** January 17.

2. Take a moment to stop and think about the upcoming exam, which will cover Chapters 1-3. The written portion of the exam will be given in class on Wednesday, February 7, and the computer portion will be available February 5-14. What topic or topics are you most comfortable with? What topic or topics are you most concerned about? How do you expect to do on the exam?

   **Assigned:** January 26;  **Due:** February 2.

3. Go to the course web page and find out what your current grade is. (You need to do this after the projects are graded.) Are you satisfied with your grade? If not, what do you need to work on? Was your grade on either the computer or written portion of the first test lower than you had hoped? Are you doing well on the journals? What about the first project? Could you have done a better job on that?

   **Assigned:** March 2;  **Due:** March 9.

4. Look through Chapters 9-21 of the text. We will definitely be covering Chapter 11, but we have some freedom in choosing which others we study. Which chapter or chapters look most interesting to you? Which look least interesting? Which have you seen some of before?

   **Assigned:** March 19;  **Due:** March 26.

5. Write about your general reflections on the course. Here are some questions you might want to answer: What material did you find most/least interesting about the course? What material did you find most/least useful? Do you like the combination of tests and quizzes we used? Would you have preferred it if the entire course was taught with quizzes (no tests)? Would you have preferred it if we had a test at the end instead of the four quizzes? What did you think of the concept of the take-home quizzes? What about the computer exams? Did you like them? Do you think the Journals were worthwhile? Did you learn anything by doing the Projects?

   Also, go check the grade page again. Do you think you’re getting the grade you deserve based on the effort that you put into the course? How much (if any) of a curve do you think there should be for final grades?

   **Assigned:** April 20;  **Due:** April 27.