

MAT 300-01
Spring 2008

Paper #1

Due January 29 – 200-250 words

This first paper has two objectives. First, I would like you to begin to think about what you know about the history of mathematics. Second, I will be evaluating and, as necessary, helping you to improve your writing skills. This paper will allow me to assess your basic writing mechanics.

Write several paragraphs on a topic/concept/person/theme from the history of mathematics about which you would like to know more. You should explain why you have an interest in that topic and, if possible, what you would like to know about it. Your essay should not be just a list of topics. You should choose one topic and then develop your essay about that. The essay should reflect your questions and ideas, not those of a professional historian of mathematics. There are no right or wrong answers; your paper will be graded on how well you explain your interest in your topic, as well as the mechanics of the paper. I do not expect, nor intend, you to have to do any research for this paper.

The paper should be addressed to someone with a similar mathematical background to yours.