

HOMEWORK PREPARATION IMPERATIVES

- Mathematical writing is prose.

Write complete sentences! The only parts of mathematical writing that cannot be written in sentences are long calculations, which you shouldn't be showing us on your homework anyway.

- Mathematical writing is not computer programming.

Never use the three dots or the arrows \implies or the \wedge/\vee , and please write in complete sentences, including carefully chosen logical connecting words. You are writing a mathematical explanation for yourself and for me, your friend. You are not a robot and I am not a robot.

- Mathematical writing is hard.

If you can make your writing persuasive and interesting, great, but this is generally too difficult. If you must choose, choose writing that is *clear*, *correct*, and *complete*.

- Mathematical writing is serial.

Choose the order that you want readers to read the words (which should, by the way, form complete sentences), and place them in that order: from left to right, and then from the top to the bottom of the page.

- Be brave.

Following the above guidelines reveals your thoughts but also creates the possibility for them to be exposed as wrong. This is exactly what you want: do it.

prose, sentences, grammar, punctuation, spacing, alignment, order

clear, correct, complete