

Project “Rubric”

The goal of this project is to give you an opportunity to engage with mathematical thinking in the most meaningful way possible for *you*. Because different people are drawn to different aspects of math and have different interests outside of math different projects will look very different and emphasize different things. My ultimate goal for this project is that it is something you will remember years from now as something that resonated with you, something that helped you build a positive relationship with math, or something that helped you reflect on your life’s work. With all this said, if you are wanting specific things to shoot for here is a list of qualities I would guess every project will have:

- A clear introduction to the topic and an explanation of why it is interesting/important.
- A clear articulation of your thesis or questions you will address. Hopefully this thesis is compelling to you and you should impress on the reader why it should be compelling to them.
- An exposition of some mathematical ideas with logical and correct explanations. In other words, an application of mathematical thinking in your analysis/discussion. I encourage you to include examples and illustrations of any technical mathematics you are explaining.
- Attention to writing style. This is a fairly open ended project so it does not need to fall into the writing style of any particular discipline, but attention to all the usual qualities that make readable and compelling writing.
- Connections to outside resources with appropriate references. Different projects will rely on outside resources in different ways and some projects will be very personal with little references at all.

If you want, you could put all these items on a seven point scale and rank your paper on them, or you could use a more holistic and qualitative approach to evaluating your writing.

Peer reviews

1. Explain the specific strengths of the paper—which of the bullet points above do they do most effectively? Is there something not on that list that makes the project stand out to you. What makes these parts effective (offer examples from their paper of what makes them strong)
2. Explain two areas that need further development. (For instance, What questions do you have about the project? What important aspects of their topic have they not yet discussed fully? Are there areas of the paper where ideas are not yet clear?) Be specific about what needs improvement and say why: tell them what the benefit could be of making the changes you are suggesting.
3. Remember that your peer review is constructive criticism: show the writer respect, let them know what is working well, and give them concrete and specific advice about how you think it could be made even better.