

Mr. Panda's Summer Assignment 2009: Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus AB

The summer assignment for your senior-level mathematics course is, perhaps surprisingly, not solving math problems. That would be too obvious and, quite frankly, there will be plenty of math when the year starts. Instead, for now, I would like for you to think *about* math, and this consists of two activities: a biography and an artifact analysis.

Part I: The Biography

In a concise, well-written **essay of approximately 500 words**, I would like for you to talk about your mathematical education to date. Don't focus on numbers, mathematical operations, etc., but instead look at *the big picture*. Your response should be prompted by the three questions below.

What are some aspects of your mathematics education that you have enjoyed? Talk about something that you truly enjoyed. Perhaps there is a memorable project or topic that you have encountered, or perhaps you want to shower some praise on a teacher whose ability to convey mathematics to you was particularly delightful.

What are some aspects of your mathematics education that you would like to change? Yes, don't worry if you don't have too many positive experiences. You should definitely discuss the challenges and barriers you have faced in your mathematics education. (This is where it's all right to say you don't particularly like math...it'll be my goal to change that, right?)

What are your goals for this year and what can we do to accomplish them? Finally, based on the positives and negatives you have discussed above, think about your vision for this year. What shape would you like to see your mathematics education take this year? What are some ways I can facilitate reaching those goals? This is the truly reflective section of the biography.

Part II: The Artifact

Find an artifact about your mathematics education and write a **blurb of approximately 100 words** (yes, that is a technical mathematics term) as to why this artifact is representative of the mathematics education you describe in your essay. You can use an old assignment, exam, etc., as an artifact, but definitely feel free to be creative in your selection! (This is where it pays not to throw anything away.)

Your summer assignment is due at the beginning of class on August 24-25, 2009. 80% of the grade will be derived from the biography and 20% will be derived from the artifact analysis. It will count as an exam grade. Make your product typed, double-spaced, and subject to the usual norms already instilled so well by your English teachers.

Have a nice summer! You are welcome to contact me if you have any questions, via e-mail (spanda@neisd.net), phone (210.386.4446), or Facebook.

Mr. Panda