

1. Free-write¹ any thoughts that come to mind when you think of the question, “What is mathematics?” Free-write for at least five minutes.
2. Do the same with the question “Is mathematics good for anything?” **It is obvious that arithmetic is needed for dealing with money and for measuring, so do not even mention it** (which many mathematicians would say is not mathematics anyway). The mathematics I refer to is the mathematics beyond arithmetic and beginning algebra. If possible, give one specific application of mathematics beyond arithmetic and basic algebra.

The answers to both are to be your personal opinions. *The only “wrong” answers are trite answers or answers which involve only vague generalities.*

3. Homework: After you have done the free-writes, draw a line on the page. Below the line, write a polished answer to each question based on the thoughts in your free-writes. Please put the free-writes and the polished version on the same page(s) as directed.

¹“Freewrite” means to write down your thoughts as they come to you without worrying about organization, grammar, etc.