

In Part I, you wrote your own ideas about the questions “What is math?” and “Is math good for anything?” In this assignment, you will write essays reporting other people’s answers to those questions. The expectations here are higher than they were on Part I.

1. Read (at least) Chapters 2 and 3, pages 13–45, of *Nature’s Numbers* by Ian Stewart, which is on reserve in the library. Make notes on the reading relevant the above questions. Also note things that interest or surprise you.
2. Read (at least) “What is Mathematics?” (pp. 6-8) and sections 1-4 of “Utility” (pp. 79-87) in *The Mathematical Experience*<sup>1</sup> by Davis and Hersh, which is on reserve in the library. Make notes on the reading relevant the above questions. Also note things that interest or surprise you.
3. Do the same with “Entering Mathematical Sciences at the Graduate Level” by Robert V. Moody.<sup>2</sup> (Although it is the first part of the article which is of interest to us, read the 1.5 pages at the end about graduate study in mathematics just to give you something to think about.)
4. (Optional, but recommended.) In connection with this freewrite, you might (especially if you are a fan of Car Talk on Public Radio) enjoy reading “The Allegory of the Epiphany at the Fountain ...tell me THIS isn’t crazy” by Tom Magliozzi and the associated feedback at <http://www.cartalk.com/content/rant/r-r1ast33.html> (or Google the title)
5. Write two essays, “What is math?” and “Is math good for anything?” based on the readings. For an enhanced grade, include another reputable source. (The web is not necessarily reputable, proceed with caution if that is your source. Feel free to ask for guidance.)

Recommended sections of the essays:

- Introduction
- Summary of the Reading (properly cited by page)
- Synthesis (e.g. compare and contrast the various readings with each other and with the answers you wrote to the questions in Part I.)
- Conclusion
- References
- Addendum (attach What is Math? Part I writing; required)

A scoring rubric will be provided.

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<sup>1</sup>I strongly recommend that you read the entire book at some point in the not too distant future. A few passages in it are out of date, but it remains informative and provocative.

<sup>2</sup>By the way, Professor Penrose spoke about his Penrose Tiling to a large crowd at WOU in 2006.

In Part I, you wrote your own ideas about the questions “What is math?” and “Is math good for anything?” Part II was about reporting the ideas of others and then comparing them to each other and to you. Not everyone did the assignment, which was surprising and disappointing, since it was obviously a major assignment.

*Those who did not do the assignment the first time must do it now for partial credit. Those who did it the first time must revise their first version,<sup>3</sup> based on the feedback given, for additional credit. The expectations here are high. Follow directions here and on the scoring rubric exactly. The writing should be college level.*

1. Read (at least) Chapters 2 and 3, pages 13–45, of *Nature’s Numbers* by Ian Stewart, which is on reserve in the library. Make notes on the reading relevant the above questions. Also note things that interest or surprise you.
2. Read (at least) “What is Mathematics?” (pp. 6-8) and sections 1-4 of “Utility” (pp. 79-87) in *The Mathematical Experience*<sup>4</sup> by Davis and Hersh, which is on reserve in the library. Make notes on the reading relevant the above questions. Also note things that interest or surprise you.
3. Do the same with “Entering Mathematical Sciences at the Graduate Level” by Robert V. Moody.<sup>5</sup> (Although it is the first part of the article which is of interest to us, read the 1.5 pages at the end about graduate study in mathematics just to give you something to think about.)
4. Write two essays, “What is math?” and “Is math good for anything?” based on the readings. For an enhanced grade, include another reputable source *in your discussion*. (The web is not necessarily reputable, proceed with caution if that is your source. Feel free to ask for guidance.)

*Required* sections of the essays:

- Introduction
- Summary of the Reading (properly cited by page)
- Synthesis (e.g. compare and contrast the various readings with each other and with the answers you wrote to the questions in Part I.)
- Conclusion
- References
- Addendum (attach What is Math? Part I and Part II (if you did it); required)

The same scoring rubric as before will be used, except that the addendum now included Parts I and the first version of Part II. Use the rubric as a guide for what each section should contain.

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<sup>3</sup>Unless a note on your first version explicitly says you were exempt.

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<sup>5</sup>By the way, Professor Penrose spoke about his Penrose Tiling to a large crowd at WOU in 2006.