

MA341 Homework #1
Due Monday, August 27, 2001

Your Mathematics Biography

Write a brief essay (one to two pages) that is your “math biography.” It should tell me something about your background in mathematics, and what you hope to learn in this course, and why you decided to take it. You might include a description of some important mathematical event in your life (e.g., how you felt about solving a particularly hard problem; a math teacher who influenced you; a competition you entered; or difficulties you find frustrating).

Here are some questions that may help you get started.

How would you assess your own mathematical ability? Do you like math? Did you ever? When did your feelings change, if they did? What is your attitude toward math now? Recall positive experiences you had in learning math. When do you remember doing well in math? What bad experiences do you remember? Who helped you at home with math? What did your parents think about math? What do your friends think about math? What do you remember about specific math courses or teachers? How did teachers or parents react when you made a mistake or when you did well in mathematics? What kind of mathematics instruction helped you to grow in confidence and success? What kind of mathematics instruction will NOT be observed in the classes that you teach? As a result of your teaching, will your students both like and do well in mathematics? Why would you say this? Is there anything that I should know about you that would help me understand you as a math student?