

Math 491 - Mathematical Writing
Writing Assignment #3
Due: By 4:00pm on Friday, February 8th

Instructions:

Your Aunt Syzygy responded to your first letter as follows.

Dear Niece or Nephew,

I have learned that you are currently pursuing a degree in mathematics. I have always loved math and I was quite good at it when I was in school. It was extremely satisfying to be able to solve a challenging problem or to come up with a clear proof of a theorem. Although I greatly enjoyed my travels, I realize that they have prevented me from spending as much time as I would have liked learning more about mathematics.

Now that I am moving back to Minnesota to start a new chapter in my life, I realize that I should get to know my family better. Although I have learned much about other cultures during my travels, I haven't spent enough time understanding the passions and pursuits of my own flesh and blood.

I would be very interested in hearing about a mathematical topic that you really love and that you would like to know more about. Please describe this topic in as much detail as you can. Tell me what you already know about it and what you don't know. Also, please point me toward a good reference (a book or article) that has more information about this topic that would help me to learn more about it.

I would really appreciate hearing from you!

Much Love,

Aunt Syzygy

Respond to your Aunt Syzygy's request. Be sure to address all of the requests she has made. Make sure that you give complete bibliographical information for the book or article where she can find more information about your mathematical topic. If you are struggling to choose a topic or to find a good resource, please meet with me (or with one of your other professors) for help.

Your grade on this assignment will be based mainly on the clarity of your exposition (how well you describe your selected topic). You will not be graded explicitly on your grammar or mechanics, but you should make sure to write reasonably well, and you should make sure that your final product "sounds" like an actual letter to your aunt. You may assume that your Aunt Syzygy has an undergraduate education in mathematics. Your response should be between 2 and 4 pages.

This assignment is due by 4:00pm on Friday, February 8th.