

## Writing Project Guidelines

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### Overview

There are seven labs: Lab 0, 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B (in that order). The labs have problems to solve, but they also have *Writing Projects* to do.

The writing projects in Lab 1A will be collected and graded in time for Lab 1B. During Lab 1B, there will be a few new exercises, but there will also be time to work on **revising** the work in Lab 1A. Finally, Lab 1A (revised) and Lab 1B will be collected and graded.

Lab 2A & 2B will be organized similarly, and likewise for Lab 3A & 3B.

### Grading Scheme

For Labs 1A, 2A, & 3A:

20% Correctness

40% Precision: Say what you mean, mean what you say; it can be understood as written

40% Explanation: Claims are well-supported by reasons, and one can follow the logic

–?% (deductions for avoidable small errors, like spelling)

For Labs 1B, 2B, & 3B:

60–100% Revisions: significant improvements, and everything needing fixing has been addressed

0–40% New Problems: correct, precise, w/good explanations

Lab 0 has no writing projects in it, only exercises to do. It will be graded on correctness only.

### What it means to write well in the context of mathematics (How you will be graded)

- We do not value length. We only require completeness. If all else is equal, shorter is better!
- We value clarity, accuracy, precision:
  - Say what you mean: you must find the right words or phrases to express exactly what you have in mind. Being this precise can be a struggle. The good thing is that it forces you to realize whether you understand something really well: if you can't figure out how to say it, it may be a sign that you don't really understand it.
  - Mean what you say: Everything you write should be something that you really want to say. Don't just write stuff that sounds nice or impressive.
- We value logical explanations.
  - Your claims (conclusions) need to be supported by reasons.
  - The connection between reasons and conclusions must be clear. Do the "reasons" really support the claims? Is it clear how the reasons support the claims? If not, you may be missing an idea to connect your reasons to the claim. Or it may be that your "reasons" aren't actually relevant for the claim that you are currently discussing.
  - It is not enough to make correct observations and/or mention true facts. You need to structure your writing so it's clear which facts justify which conclusions, and how.
- Points deducted for: not following instructions, misspellings, bad punctuation, bad capitalization, etc. (No points given for getting these things right. This is college. Be careful. Proofread. If you need extra help with basic English, go to the Writing Center or ARC.)

## **Collaboration/Copying**

*Work together* with your classmates during the lab to figure out the correct answers. You can continue discussions outside afterwards, and you can even discuss the writing project. But as soon as you start to write or type anything, *you must do it on your own!*

Lab 0 has no writing project. For Lab 0 only, you can work with a partner and hand in a single paper with both your names on it, for full credit.

## **Format**

Neat and well-organized. You can write it entirely using Mathematica if you are careful with fonts and such – it has to be readable. Or you can use a word processor like MS Word, and copy graphs and text from Mathematica as needed, pasting them into the document you are writing. Whatever you decide, you are responsible for making sure that it looks good.

At the top of the paper, put your name, your course and section number (151-01 or 151-02), the lab number (0, 1A, 1B, etc.), and the date. Just below that, write, “Worked with:” and then write a list of *everyone* who had relevant discussions with you. (This could include your classmates, tutors, teaching assistant, the instructor, your mom, whatever – list them all.)