



Mohawk Math Engineering Competition

Math Essay Guidelines – Math Competition 2019

The goal of the mathematics essay is to provide students an opportunity to explore the history of mathematics through the life and work of a famous mathematician. This task will show students how mathematicians from the past and/or present have shaped the world we live in today. We hope this assignment increases students' appreciation for mathematics in general.

Students are required to choose a famous mathematician and write a 500 – 800 word essay following the guidelines listed below. They may choose a mathematician from the list provided or select one on their own.

- Essay submissions are due Friday, May 3rd at midnight and must be sent by email to: matheng@mohawkcollege.ca
- Essays will be judged by a panel of math and language professors

Style Guidelines

Essay should be typed, double-spaced on standard-sized paper (8.5 X 11), with 1" margins on all sides. Please use a 12-point font that is highly readable, such as Times New Roman. A Title page should also be included.

Sample List of Famous Mathematicians

Alan Turing	Albert Einstein	Archimedes
Bernhard Riemann	Carl Friedrich Gauss	Évariste Galois
George Boole	Hypatia	Leonardo of Pisa (Fibonacci)
Maryam Mirzakhani	Pierre de Fermat	Pythagoras of Samos
René Descartes	Sir Isaac Newton	Srinivasa Ramanujan

Mathematics Essay Guidelines

The essay should include five paragraphs using the criteria outlined below.

Paragraph 1 – Introduction

- Introduce the mathematician selected
- Explain why you chose this particular mathematician

Paragraph 2 – Background

- Overview - the life of the mathematician
- Include details such as birthday, birthplace, education, family life, career, hobbies this person enjoyed, etc.

Paragraph 3 – Questions

- If you could meet this person, what three questions would you ask him/her?
- Explain why you would ask those questions.

Paragraph 4 – Reflection

- Describe how you feel this mathematician's contributions to the field still impact society today.

Paragraph 5 – Conclusion

- Predict what you think society would be like if this person had not made his/her contributions to the field.
- Reflect on your mathematician and their accomplishments and create a slogan to describe them.

Essay Rubric

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Content	The content of the paper is irrelevant to the assignment or is completely unclear.	The content of the paper is of poor quality and only marginal relevance to the assignment.	The content of the paper is reasonable and is somewhat relevant to the assignment	The content of the paper is acceptable and is relevant to the assignment.	The content of the paper is good and is clearly relevant to the assignment.	The content of the paper is exceptional and provides an original and thought-provoking response to the assignment.
Organization	The paper is not structured as paragraph(s) and the order of points seems random.	The paper has paragraph(s) whose breaks are illogical, and the order of points therein seems random.	The paper has paragraph(s) with some logical breaks, and there is a somewhat logical order of points therein.	The paper has acceptable paragraph structure, and the order of points therein is logical.	The paper has clear paragraph structure, and the order of points therein enhances the point of the writing.	The paper has exceptional paragraph structure and progression, and the order of points therein is convincing.
Style	The paper's use of language is fundamentally flawed in terms of both word choice and level of formality	The paper's use of language has a number of errors in word choice and only occasionally uses the appropriate level of formality	The paper's use of language has some errors in word choice and uses the correct level of formality at times.	The paper's use of language has some errors in word choice and mostly uses the correct level of formality.	The paper's use of language has a few errors in word choice or none at all and uses the correct level of formality.	The paper uses shows exceptional use of vocabulary, formality and tone to enhance the reader's appreciation of the content.
Mechanics	The serious errors in basic clause and sentence structures in the paper make the points completely unclear.	The serious errors in basic clause and sentence structures in the paper make the points largely unclear.	The errors in basic clause and sentence structures in the paper leave some key points unclear.	Basic clause and sentence structures are used throughout, ensuring acceptable point clarity.	Varied clause and sentence structures are used correctly to ensure the clarity of the points.	Clause and sentence structures are carefully chosen to enhance the impact of the points.