

Math Autobiography

Purpose of the Assignment: As your instructor, I want to get to know you as a person and as a student of mathematics. This will help me better meet your needs. It also helps our department as we work to improve our services to students.

Content: Your autobiography should address the four sections listed below. I've listed some questions to help guide you, but please don't just go through and answer each question separately. The questions are just to help get you thinking. Remember the purpose of the paper. Write about the things that will give me a picture of you. The key to writing a good piece is to give lots of detail. See the example below:

Not enough detail: I hated math in fourth grade, but it got better in sixth grade.

Good detail: I hated math in fourth grade because I had trouble learning my multiplication tables. I was really slow at doing problems, and I was always the last one to finish the timed tests. It was really embarrassing. ...

Section 1: Introduction

- How would you describe yourself?
- Where are you from? How did you decide to attend Fort Lewis?
- What is your educational background? Did you just graduate from high school? Have you been out of school for a few years? If so, what have you been doing since then?
- General interests: favorite subjects in school, favorite activities or hobbies.

Section 2: Experience with Math

- What math classes have you taken and when?
- What have your experiences in math classes been like?
- How do you feel about math?
- In what ways have you used math outside of school?

Section 3: Learning Styles and Habits (specifically for math)

- Do you learn best from reading, listening or doing?
- Do you prefer to work alone or in groups?
- What do you do when you get "stuck"?
- Do you ask for help? From whom?
- Describe some of your study habits. For example: Do you take notes? Are they helpful? Are you organized? Do you procrastinate? Do you read the text?

Section 4: The Future

- What are your expectations for this course?
- What are your responsibilities as a student in this course? What do you expect from your instructor?
- What are your educational and life goals?
- How does this course fit into your educational goals?

Assignment Requirements

Format:

- Double-spaced
- 1 inch margins
- 12 point type

Minimum length: 2 pages

Your paper needs to have the following information in the upper right corner:

Math Autobiography

Your name

Course name

Time course meets

Grading: This paper will not be graded for writing style and composition in the same way that you would be graded in a writing course, but I do expect proper spelling and grammatical usage. If this is an issue for you, have someone proof read it for you. I am happy to proof read papers that are brought to me during my office hours. I will be using the following rubric.

Criteria	Points
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each section is fully covered and includes relevant detail.	8 (2/section)
Format <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double-space, 1-inch margins, 12 pt type• Minimum length (2 pages)	1 1

Important Note: If you take future math classes in the Freshman Math Program, you will be required to turn in your math autobiography, so be sure to keep an electronic copy so you don't have to redo the work.

Math Autobiography Epilogue – Only for students with a Math Autobiography from a previous FMP Course (TRS 82, TRS 92 or Math 110)

If you have written a math autobiography for a previous FLC course, you may use the same work for the main body of your paper. However, you need to add 1-2 paragraphs (minimum of a half a page) addressing the following questions.

1. Describe your experience in the math class that you just took.
2. Do you think about math in the same way that you did when you first wrote your autobiography?
3. How do you view your mathematical ability now as compared to when you wrote your autobiography?

Requirements:

- Must include original autobiography and meet the requirements for that assignment (minimum 2 pages long).
- Epilogue (the new stuff) must be a minimum of half a page.
- Typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-pt. type.

Your paper needs to have the following information in the upper right corner:

Math Autobiography

Your name

Course name

Term and year