

**Math 140**  
**Fall 08**

**Math Autobiography**  
**Due Monday September 8**

Write your math autobiography. Feel free to choose a creative format. You may write whatever seems relevant to you, but here are some questions to help you get started (you don't have to answer them all): What do you like about math? Dislike? What is one of your first memories of mathematics? What does it feel like when you really understand something mathematical? When you don't? What are some mathematical things you'd like to know more about? What mathematical ideas do you think about outside of school? Who was the best / worst math teacher you ever had and why? What age children are you interested in teaching? What kind of math teacher would you like to be? What do you need to learn to become such a teacher?

This assignment has a two-fold purpose: first, to help you reflect on your experience with and attitude toward mathematics and second, to introduce yourself to me. For the latter goal, please include anything else you'd like me to know. Your math autobiography will be the first item in your portfolio at the end of Math 141.

You can email your autobiography to me at [dborkovitz@wheelock.edu](mailto:dborkovitz@wheelock.edu) before the due date or you can bring **two copies** of your autobiography to class. I will return one with comments and keep the other to refer to throughout the semester.

**Extra Challenge:** This assignment is due the day after my birthday. I won't tell you how old I'm going to be, but I'll give you a little puzzle to figure it out:

When this paper is due, my age will be double a prime. Next birthday, my age will be a prime. Assuming I live a long time, this situation (double a prime this year, next year a prime) will only happen one more time before I'm in my eighties.