

Journal on Your Experiences in this Course

Grading: It is critical that your piece says something thoughtful and substantial. You will not be graded on your position, but rather on the depth and thoughtfulness of your reflection. You should be completely honest, your grade will not be impacted by your position, only by your ability to craft a thoughtful thesis, describe it clearly and to provide sufficient evidence in its support.

Writer: Please write in **your** voice. The goal of this assignment is for **you** to reflect on **your** experience in this course, focusing on certain aspects of this experiences that are most important to **you**.

Audience: Your audience is someone who knows nothing about this course but is interested in learning about the course, about the course's impact on students and about the course's role on the continuing debate about mathematics teaching and learning. If it helps to envision a single person, some of the following may be appropriate as your audience:

- Paul Lockhart, author of A Mathematician's Lament.
- Members of your family who support your education and want to know what your experience is like.
- Current or potential WSU students.
- Program Directors at the National Science Foundation who have supported our work with taxpayer money and are certainly curious if it is making a positive contribution.

Message: How did this course impact you as a student, as someone near the end of his or her formal experiences in school-based mathematics, and as a life-long learner? Did this course change you and how you view learning? Did your experiences in this course change your views on mathematics and its place in the world? Most of you were sufficiently provoked by reading Lockhart's A Mathematician's Lament. So, is this course a viable alternative?

I **do not** want you interpret these questions narrowly and answer them one after another. Instead, I want **you** to think about these questions broadly, formulating what is important for **you** to use as a thesis for **your** reflection. I also **do not** want to a summary of Lockhart's lament (I know the book). Instead you can use your own opinion about the book and its claims to support your thesis.

Vehicle: This is entirely your choice. Your reflective piece can be a journal. It can be a video. It can be an essay. It can be a piece of art. It can be doodles or a cartoon. It can be a play. It can be a letter. It can be a poem. It can be a song. You choose the vehicle. Be certain that the vehicle you choose allows you to respond in adequate depth.