

MA110 – Mathematical Explorations – Fall 2011

First Journals

You will be responsible for *journaling* in this course. Generally the purpose of your journals will be to document and reflect on your progress in the course, your thoughts about mathematics, and your thoughts about the learning experience in which you are involved. Some of your journal entries will be in response to specific prompts and others will be based on themes which are self-determined. Journals will be graded on a standard A – F scale. The grades will be determined solely by the effort, thoughtfulness, and responsiveness to the prompt that is reflected in the journal. We need you to be frank and honest in your journals. Describing, reflecting on, or critiquing something that your teacher might find disturbing, overly critical, or contrary to the teacher’s goals will not have a negative impact on your journal grade. If at any time you have questions about the nature of the grading of the journals, please ask. If at any time you do not wish to have your journal used as part of this study you should write “Do not include” clearly on top of the journal. The journal will still be graded as part of a required course element, but it will not be used as part of our study.

The journals **MUST** be submitted electronically via a SurveyMonkey form that we have created for this purpose.

The first journals are found at the URL

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ibl-journal-one-F11>

Whenever you create journals they are to be reflective pieces that you have clearly spent time thinking about *and* have submitted only after having gone through a first draft that has been edited and proofread. You **should not** compose your journal entries online in the text boxes. Rather, you should compose them in a word processor and the cut and paste to the appropriate text boxes. You should keep copies of all of your journals in case there are problems with the electronic submission.

More information about journals is included in the syllabus and on the SurveyMonkey scripts themselves. In particular, remember that “journal grades will be determined solely by the effort, thoughtfulness, and responsiveness to the prompt that is reflected in the journal.”

The first journals are below. You must answer them and submit your answers online by midnight on Tuesday, 25 January.

1. To what extent do you think mathematics plays/has played an important role in science, engineering, and technology?

- Not at all
- Mildly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Extremely Important

2. Explain your thinking behind your response to question 1. (Write roughly one paragraph.)

3. To what extent do you think mathematics plays/has played an important role in the Humanities – in particular, history, culture, literature, philosophy, etc. ?

- Not at all
- Mildly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Extremely Important

4. Explain your thinking behind your response to question 3. (Write roughly one paragraph.)

5. To what extent do you think mathematics plays/has played an important role in the Arts - in particular in visual arts, music, dance, architecture, etc.

- Not at all
- Mildly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Extremely Important

6. Explain your thinking behind your response to question 5. (Write roughly one paragraph.)

7. Describe ways you encounter mathematics in the world around you, citing three specific examples.

(Write roughly three paragraphs.)