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# Math 195: Demystifying Mathematics

HOMEWORK 8 : DUE MAY 11

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Way back in January when the world was a very different place, I set the following as the main learning goal for the semester, “By the end of the semester, students should be comfortable reading, writing, and discussing mathematics aimed at a general audience.”

The goal for this last homework assignment is for you to find a “mathy” article in some popular press which you would not likely have tried to read before this semester. You will write at least one page, typed, single spaced (or at least two pages double spaced) explaining the math in the article as you understand it to a friend. I expect the writing to be good, no spelling errors or major grammar errors. But your audience is a friend so it can have an informal, chatty feel to it. Make clear math points, but also tell a story about the article.

Finally, end with approximately one more paragraph explaining to your friend what you think now when you hear the word “math”, and what most sticks with you from the semester’s worth of discussions we’ve had.

I have a sense of what could make a “good” article for you to read and comment on, but I’ve struggled to put guidelines into words, and I want to make sure you don’t waste time reading and writing about an article that won’t work. **So, by 5 PM Monday, May 4th, you should send me the link to 3 stories you’d be willing to read.** I will check them out briefly when you send them to me, and let you know which one(s) are ok to write about. If I say more than one is ok, you can pick your favorite among them.

Technically your final writeup is due by class time May 8, but I won’t grade them before 3 PM on Monday, May 11th so, just submit it to PWeb before then.

As always, don’t hesitate to check in with me if you have any questions.