

About Essay Grades.

The essay grade is based on the following:

1. Since this is a mathematics course, I expect essays to have mathematical components. The correctness of the mathematics will be considered.
2. A thesis statement is expected and the argument in support of the thesis will be considered.
3. Fact! Facts should be used to support your thesis and they should be correctly stated; where they come from needs to be referenced.
4. Grammar: Incorrect grammar in an essay is like an incorrect equation in a proof; and it will be considered accordingly.
5. Logic: Your argument (e.g. in support of your thesis) needs to be logically correct. You will need to state your assumptions in your essay, as you would axioms in a mathematical proof.
6. Originality/creativity: I expect students to come up with their own ideas; restating something from a book or from class discussions produces a weak essay. If you happen to be interested in an idea discussed in a book or in class, the looking at it differently or using a different argument in support of the idea is a valid form of originality. If someone comes up with an idea that I haven't considered before, then the student has shown a lot of creativity and would be given a high "originality" score.