Your Pre-Wheaton Automathography

Due Friday, September 11, 2026 @ 12:30 pm
Submit as a single pdf file to Canvas

This is a slight modification of a paper I've used in the past in a first year seminar course. For this assignment, you should think about your engagement with mathematics *before you came to Wheaton.* You will write about your experiences as a math major over the last four years in your final paper for the semester.

In a well-polished two to three page paper, introduce your pre-Wheaton mathematical self. I am including a few prompts below to help you get started, but you should not feel obligated to respond to every question. You should be creative and reflective in your response, rather than just listing an answer to each item.

- ⊙ Explain your previous mathematical experiences, both in school and out of school. You should think broadly about this. For example, include any hobbies or pastimes where an understanding of math was relevant, e.g. music, computer programming, sculpture, counting cards at a casino, etc.
- ⊙ How was math talked about in your home, if at all?
- ⊙ Did you have friends with whom you felt comfortable/enjoyed talking about math or math-related topics?
- ⊙ What was your best, or worst, mathematical experience? Were your experiences mostly positive or negative?
- ⊙ Was there anyone particularly influential in your mathematical development? What was their impact?
- ⊙ What role, if any, did you see math playing in your future before you started at Wheaton?
- ⊙ How, if at all, does your mathematical identity connect or intersect with your personal identities?

And, of course, have fun with this!