

ENG 098/MTH 096-097  
Winter 2012  
An Integrated Essay: How Do You Do It?

1<sup>st</sup> Draft Due: 1/26  
Length: 2-3 typed pages

Overview

Sometimes, knowledge doesn't belong to us until we can share it with someone else. To make sure you know how to use a certain mathematical process, you will write a two-to three-page word problem that you guide your reader through solving. Imagine the reader as another math student who's struggling to master this process. This assignment will help you to think about math more deeply and give you practice developing strong, unified paragraphs. By completing it, you will earn points in ENG 098 and MTH 096-097.

Your word problem can come from any part of life: work, home, etc. You might describe building a bookcase with different-sized pieces, or how a group of car washers split up their tips from a shift, or how a chef halves a recipe for shepherd's pie. You can use word problems we've worked on in class as inspiration, but you have to come up with a new scenario.

You can use fractions, decimals, or both. You don't want your problem to be too easy—you need to have it take 2-3 pages to explain well. On the other hand, it shouldn't be so complex that you have to skip over things or attempt to rush through any steps.

Directions

1. Review your math work and decide what process you would like to write about, and use your class materials to research it thoroughly. Try to pick something that's a little mysterious to you still but not impossible; writing this problem-essay should help to clarify your thinking.
2. In your introductory paragraph, present the whole problem to the reader. **Give each body paragraph a topic sentence that will inform the reader what the next step in solving the problem should be.** You can leave blank spaces in your paragraphs in order to draw in some pictures/numbers/symbols, but those spaces will not count towards the page length! As you describe the process, **try as hard as you can to help your reader "get it"**: feel free to use any language, images, metaphors, and/or tips that Beth or previous teachers have given you. Go into as much detail as possible, and don't take the reader's knowledge for granted. If you use a term like "whole number," or "improper fraction," for example, make sure you define it.
3. In your concluding paragraph, first review the main steps you took to solve the problem. Then, list a few other scenarios in which the reader might need to use this same process.
4. After composing your first draft, ask yourself these questions and go back and make any necessary changes:

*Does my essay...*

- Show the reader, step by step, how to solve the problem and provide the answer?
- Explain well the appropriate math concepts?
- Use organized body paragraphs with topic sentences?

5. Give your essay a snappy, topic-related title. Make it sound like the coolest math essay ever!

6. Print it out, staple it, and hand it in!

Rubric

	✓ +	✓	✓ –
Description of Scenario/Problem	Clearly described	Somewhat described	Unclear
Steps to solve problem (Math)	Mathematically correct	1-2 math errors	Incorrect
Steps to solve problem (English)	Clearly stated; logical progression; excellent grammar	Steps given, parts unclear or grammatical errors	Illogical; many grammatical errors
Correct use of mathematics vocabulary	Yes	Some	No
Use organized body paragraphs with topic sentences for each paragraph	Yes	Some	No
Concluding paragraph	Main steps reviewed; additional scenarios given	Main steps reviewed; additional scenarios given	Missing review of steps; no additional scenarios given
Presentation	Neat; Appropriate illustrations (if needed)	Somewhat neat; appropriate illustrations (if needed)	Not neat, illustrations missing (if needed)
Length	2-3 pages	2-3 pages	not 2-3 pages

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Partial 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Due: 2/7

Full 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Due: 2/16

Length: 2-3 typed pages

Assessment Rubric for Draft #2

<b>Focus Area: Thesis Statement</b>	
Does my introductory paragraph include as its final sentence a thesis statement that uses this format:  “To _____, you need to _____.”	10 points
Does my thesis statement use a strong, clear action verb that describes the <u>very essence</u> of the math process I’m writing about? (This is work you started in class by filling out the beige sheet.)	20 points
<b>Focus Area: Introductory Paragraph</b>	
Does my introduction get the reader’s attention by using one of the strategies discussed in class (a quick story/image; a strong opinion; a surprising fact)?	20 points
<b>Focus Area: Body Paragraphs and Topic Sentences</b>	
Does the body of my essay contain 3-7 unified paragraphs that guide the reader through the math process?	10 points
Do all of the body paragraphs use topic sentences that relate to the math process?	20 points
Do all of my topic sentences use an action verb?	10 points
<b>Focus Area: Concluding Paragraph</b>	
Does my conclusion revisit the thesis and remind the reader why knowing this math process is important?	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

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Final draft due: 3/13 in class  
 Length: 2-3 typed pages

Assessment Rubric for Draft #3

<b>Focus Area: Thesis Statement</b>	
Does my introduction include as its final sentence a strong, clear thesis statement that uses an action verb and this format:  “To _____, you need to _____.”	10 points
<b>Focus Area: The Beginning</b>	
Does my essay have a catchy title that relates to its thesis? Does this title <b>not contain</b> the word “essay or the phrase “How Do You Do It”?	10 points
Does my introduction get the reader’s attention by using one of the strategies discussed in class (a quick story/image; a strong opinion; a surprising fact)?	5 points
<b>Focus Area: Body Paragraphs and Topic Sentences</b>	
Does the body of my essay contain 3-7 unified paragraphs that guide the reader through the math process?	10 points
Do all of the body paragraphs use topic sentences that relate to the math process and the thesis statement?	5 points
Do all of my topic sentences use an action verb?	5 points
<b>Focus Area: Concluding Paragraph</b>	
Does my conclusion revisit the thesis and remind the reader why knowing this math process is important?	5 points
<b>Focus Area: Grammar and Spelling</b>	
Does my essay make no errors in homophones?	10 points
Does my essay make no errors in spelling and capitalization?	10 points
Does my essay make no errors in punctuation?	10 points
<b>Focus Area: Presentation</b>	
Have I included page numbers on my essay?	10 points
Have I stapled my essay?	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>