

MATH 360 Blogging Assignment

The class blog can be found at math360.wordpress.com.

WHY?

One of the primary goals of this class is to teach you how to communicate about real analysis, and about mathematics generally. Part of that training lies in the homework assignments, which give you practice writing formally about mathematics. Part lies in the lab presentations, which give you practice presenting in an informal seminar setting. The blogging assignment should give you practice writing about mathematics informally, and discussing broader issues inspired by specific problems.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Your assignment the first two weeks of class is to set up your account and use it to comment on my posts. Starting the third week of classes, *every other week* (the ‘week’, for these purposes, starts at 12.00am Saturday and ends 11.59pm on Friday) you will write at least one post on the class blog. The posting schedule is by recitation section; a schedule is available on the course website.

Posts should not be technical questions (which can be answered by the book, our TA, or me), or be directly related to current homework problems (posts *inspired by* past homework problems are fine), but rather should get at more open-ended questions. Your post can pose a question, make an observation, or discuss a connection between the math we are learning and some other field of inquiry. Posts do not have to be long or complicated, but they should be substantive and allow for comments from other students, for example by posing a question.

Everyone will also have to post comments on at least two posts each week. Comments should helpfully contribute to the discussion. During the first week, I will make several posts to give you examples of what I am looking for.

Note that if you wait until Friday night at 11.59pm to submit your post, that does not give other students much of a chance to comment, so the Golden Rule dictates you should post and comment throughout the week, instead of waiting till the last moment.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

accounts. You will need a Wordpress account. To sign up, go to

<https://signup.wordpress.com/signup/?user=1>

Make sure you sign up only for an *account*—don’t start a new blog (unless you want one!).

Feel free to use any email address you want when you create an account.

Once you have your account, go the blog and leave a comment on the post titled “Check-In”. I will then give you access to the blog.

You also have the choice of an avatar, which is an image associated with your comments and posts. Feel free to create an avatar or use one of the ones provided by Wordpress.

identity, anonymity, safety, and etiquette. The blog will be publically viewable. Only members of the class will be able to post comments. If for any reason you wish not to have your real identity associated with the class blog, I encourage you to use a pseudonym. Please send me an email with your pseudonym if you choose to use one, so that I can give you credit for the assignment.

There is a well-known phenomenon called the *online disinhibition effect*, in which otherwise socially-normal people evidence rudeness, racism, misogyny, etc., in online interactions. Don’t be That Guy, even if you use a pseudonym. Be respectful, even if you disagree with someone. Don’t say anything on the blog you wouldn’t say to me or your comrades in person.

EVALUATION

I will keep track of posts and comments as the semester goes. In general I will not evaluate content, but I will check to see that posts and comments are substantive. If I notice you have not met this criterion I will let you know.