

MATH APPEAL

MATH 302-01, SPRING 2016

1. WHAT IS TO BE DONE

Let us suppose that you have fallen in love. You greatly desire a date with the inimitable Mr. or Ms. Right, but she or he does not desire a date with you. You are desperate (you might just have to be to attempt the stunt I'm about to suggest).

You decide to take the approach nobody's tried before. You will write a letter to persuade the person to date you, using as evidence positive aspects of your experience in this class.

The addressee of your letter may be any person, real or fictional, but sentient, self-conscious life-forms capable of personal interaction and reciprocation of romantic affection are strongly preferred (I had a guy write a letter to his boat once, so I have to say this).

The first and most important requirement of this letter is that it present your experience in Math 302 as having made you a person whose company is to be more desired. How you argue this is up to you. Has some mathematics you learned made you better informed, more capable, or otherwise more interesting? Has the experience of working with it done this? Whatever you can come up with *as long as it's good* (e.g. the whole "I'm cool because I'm no good at math" thing is off-limits). Even if you have to write fiction, I want you to have thought about it enough to write *good* fiction.

2. DUE DATE

The letter should be turned in at or before the final exam.

3. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS ON FORM

The present assignment is for a personal communication, and so the form is a good deal more free. Write it as you would a document really intended for the purpose (e.g. you don't have to type, etc.).

In short, writing style should, as always, be appropriate for your audience. In this case, that suggests some informality. You want to present yourself as an enjoyable person, after all. Still, giving the impression of a total slob would also be bad.

4. GRADING

In addition to the usual criteria, I will assess the following content questions:

- (1) Does the letter give a positive impression of the impact the course has made on the life of the author?
- (2) Are specific examples from the course given?
- (3) Is the letter persuasive in nature?
- (4) Is the letter comprehensible to someone who has never taken the class?