

# Papers in Mathematics

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*Mathematics papers follow the AMS (American Mathematical Society) format [1]. This document will help to explain the proper procedures for writing a mathematical paper.*

## Parts to the Math Paper

### Title and Abstract

Mathematical papers should include a short and to-the-point title. Also, include an abstract that will briefly state what your paper is about.

### Focusing Question

You should state the question you are attempting to answer at the beginning of your paper—if your focusing question changed, then state both the original and the revised questions, and state the reason why your question changed.

### Introduction

The purpose of the introduction is to orient the reader. Explain how your question has been used before, and how it relates to the bigger picture of the field of mathematics.

### Body

Here you should present your

argument in a clear way. Make sure that the logic of your argument is organized, and that it is clear to the reader.

**Conclusion** Here you need to state what can be taken from your work.

### References

In the reference section, list all references in alphabetical order by author, and use bracketed numbers [#] to number them. Within in the paper, references appear as [number of the order in which your reference appears in the reference section]. So if the reference is the third to appear in the reference section, you would use [3]. Make sure the numbers match [1].

### Appendix

You may want to include an appendix that contains extra information that you did not include in your paper, such as solutions to your problem that did not work.

## Tips for Tutors

**1. You do not have to understand everything that the student is saying in their paper.** Mathematics papers may include some difficult equations and concepts that you may not have encountered before. That is okay. Just because you do not understand that particular equation it does not mean that you cannot help the student clean up their paper.

**2. Make sure that you can follow the student's thought process in the paper.**

If the student's logic in the paper does not flow (which you will probably be able to tell even if you do not understand the equations being used), make sure to tell them. Suggest to them that they write a proof and use that to model the flow of their paper.

**3. Check for correct reference formatting.** Math references are tricky. Make sure they are following the correct guidelines for references.

## References

- [1] Hale, Margie. "Ethics in Mathematics Courses." Ethics in Mathematics Courses. N.p., 31 Oct. 2002. Web. 28 Feb. 2013.
- [2] "Know Which Style To Use." Library Subject Guides. N.p., 31 Jan. 2013. Web. 28 Feb. 2013.
- [3] "Writing Your Mathematics SIR Paper." Writing Your Mathematics SIR Paper. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Feb. 2013. <<https://www3.imsa.edu/system/files/Paper+Math.pdf>>.