

Reflective Essay 2: Due Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Directions: Your essay should be typed in a readable 12-point font. Include a heading on the first page with your name, date, Math 34001, and Essay 2. If there are multiple sheets, staple together the top left corners (in the correct order). Turn in at the start of class on the date due. Do not submit answers on notebook paper or via email.

Read the Preface, Introduction, and Overture of **The Mathematical Experience** by Davis and Hersh. Answer the following in 1–2 paragraphs each.

1. Describe in your own words the goal or task the authors envision for **The Mathematical Experience**.
2.
 - (a) What is Gian-Carlo Rota's point about oversimplification as it relates to mathematics?
 - (b) What, in your view, would be an oversimplification of mathematics?
 - (c) Who is Gian-Carlo Rota and why do you think the authors asked him to write an introduction to their book? (*You may consult the internet or other sources to answer this.*)