

Reflective Essay 3: Due Wednesday, February 4, 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 n (for the appropriate number n). 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 Chapter 1: *The Mathematical Landscape* of **The Mathematical Experience** by Davis and Hersh (pages 6–30 in my edition). Answer the following in 1–2 paragraphs each.

1. An alien has landed. She asks you what mathematics is. How do you answer?
2. What do mathematicians do?
3. Does mathematics change?
4. What is Ulam's dilemma? If you were Ulam and Stephen Colbert was interviewing you regarding this dilemma, how would you explain it? Is there anything that can be done about it? Will the recent explosion of information on the internet help?