

Writing Guidelines

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Demonstrate Thought Your text should show real, independent understanding. This can be achieved, for instance, by

- elaborating short or obscure proofs;
- discussing well-chosen, original examples;
- simplifying arguments;
- visualizing concepts in a new way;
- extracting algorithms from proofs;
- pointing out non-obvious areas of application;

and so on. If you think your discussion of something really doesn't add anything to someone else's example or argument, just give the reference instead.

Write English A math text is also a text. To avoid crimes against the English language, try reading your text aloud.

Pictures Are Math Too I recommend that you spend a substantial proportion of your time on figures. Visualization is hard and time-consuming, but almost always worth the while.

Keep a Mantra For structure and coherence, I strongly recommend that you select a few well-chosen examples that you can keep returning to in your more abstract discussions.

Don't Do Everything If you have the choice between studying one thing closely or two things less closely, do the former. You can always make life more complicated later.

Don't Do Macho Math If you find yourself using the word "easy" or talking about what "one can do" a lot, something is probably wrong. The goal is clarity, not compression.