

IDS 101-19: Living Mathematics
Fall 2008
Features of a Good Expository Paper

- It stays within the guidelines of the class assignment, and demonstrates that its author has read the reading(s) for the course.
- It uses proper citations of sources, such as (Hardy 92), whenever quoting or paraphrasing text from another source.
- It uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, as indicated by Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual*.
- It has good organization and structure. It contains a logical progression of ideas, including good flow and transitions between paragraphs.
- It has an introduction which tells the reader what the paper will be about, and a conclusion which summarizes what the paper has talked about.
- It does not argue an opinion, but explains a topic. It is objective and unbiased in explaining the topic.
- It is pitched at a level appropriate to its audience. It doesn't assume too much background knowledge or say too many obvious things over again.
- It is concise, not spending too much time on irrelevant topics, but also attempts to make the topic interesting to readers. It convinces the reader that the topic is worth learning about.
- If the paper uses multiple sources, it synthesizes this information into a coherent whole.
- The reader learns something from the paper.