

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

- It stays within the guidelines of the class assignment.
- It has a clear thesis (a main point or central theme of the paper, which presents an answer to a question).
- It has an introduction which explains what the paper will say.
- It has a conclusion which explains what the paper has said, and finishes the idea(s) presented in the introduction.
- 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 makes a persuasive argument.
- It provides evidence for its argument(s), including specific examples from the readings, class discussions, or other scholarly sources.
- Each sentence contributes to the paper; the paper doesn't contain "fluff".
- It demonstrates that its author has read the reading(s) for the course.