History of Math

Writing a Successful Paper in the History of Math.

Dr. Swienciki
Do you have difficulty creating a good written paper? I have some suggestions to help you develop your formal written paper in the history of math.

Remember, never submit work which is not your own. Aside from the fact that there are severe academic penalties, you can destroy your reputation and credibility, affecting your future career.

**Never submit work which is not your own!**
After you select your research topic in the history of math, sign the topic sheet. In that way, your paper and presentation will be from a different topic in the history of math, from the other students in your class.

If you have difficulty selecting a topic, see Dr. Swienciki for help. He may also approve a topic that is not on the list.
STEP 2

After your topic has been approved by Dr. Swienciki, locate books, journal articles from the library, or Internet articles on your topic. You are to create a bibliography of 10 or more sources you can study to find information to write your paper.

Of the 10 or more items in the bibliography, include at least 3 books, and 3 journal articles. Choose Internet articles carefully, because they may not always be accurate.

Use a standard format for the bibliography. Type and submit it on or before the due date on your syllabus to Dr. Swienciki.

Late work is not accepted. In an emergency, when you cannot attend class, send the document by E-mail or leave with the math department secretary to time-date and put in Dr. Swienciki’s mail box before the time it is due.
STEP 3

From the bibliography material, make detailed notes you can use to write a detailed working-outline. A detailed working-outline can provide you with a pattern of ideas on your topic. It is not a simple list of topics, but detailed enough for you to write a rough or first draft of your formal written paper.

Type up the working outline and submit it to Dr. Swienciki by the required date in your syllabus.

Three to five pages in your detailed outline is typical of a serious effort. You can have more.
STEP 4

Produce your first draft of your formal written paper from your detailed outline. Observe a pattern of thought in those notes to find a way to start your paper, develop it, provide historical content, mathematical content you can explain in your paper, and a way to bring conclusion to your paper.

Type up the first draft and submit it to Dr. Swienciki by the required date in your syllabus. A first draft can be double-spaced type, usually about 5 or more pages, excluding diagrams, pictures, or tables.

Often you will need to use sources of information or opinions about your topic. Never copy them as your own. Credit the sources with footnotes, at the bottom of the page, and as bibliographic entries.
STEP 5

Use your first draft to develop your final paper. Read through your first draft and think of things you like or dislike about it, and ways it can be better understood or expressed.

It is possible you will have found new books or articles to use. You can add new materials, if you think it is a good idea. But, the secret of good writing is to re-write a few times. Take a break between writings so that your mind is fresh.

Type up the final draft and submit it to Dr. Swienciki by the required date in your syllabus. A final draft can be double-spaced type, usually about 5 or more pages, excluding diagrams, pictures, or tables. It includes footnotes and bibliography.

You do not need to submit the working-outline and first draft a second time. But, always put a cover sheet on your work submitted.