

First Writing Assignment:

Write up a careful solution to Problem 4 in Section 3. (*First draft due in class Monday, October 25; Two copies of second draft due in class Wednesday, October 27.*)

General Guidelines

For each writing assignment, you should aim your writing at a typical student in this course who does not yet know how to prove the result you are writing up. Your goal should be to make the proof crystal clear, so that your reader could easily explain it to anyone else in the class.

Your first draft will be read by several other students in the class, who will give you your first round of feedback. Based on this feedback, you should write your second draft, and bring *two copies* of the second draft to the next class. These will be read and commented upon by the instructor and the TA. Then you should write a final draft.

The final drafts of all your writing assignments, together with all previous drafts, will be turned in as a “writing portfolio” at the end of the quarter. This will count for 10% of your final grade.

Read the *Notes on Writing Mathematics*, handed out in class on Monday, 10/18 and available on the web, for general instructions about writing mathematics. In addition, please read the following references about mathematical writing, available in the Math Research Library, Padelford C-306.

- Donald E. Knuth, Tracy Larrabee, and Paul M. Roberts, *Mathematical Writing*, Washington, DC: The Mathematical Association of America, 1989. (On the Reserve shelf.) Just read pages 1–8.
- Norman E. Steenrod, Paul R. Halmos, Menahem M. Schiffer, Jean A. Dieudonné, *How to Write Mathematics*, Providence: American Mathematical Society, 1981. (On the Reference shelf.) Read the essay by Halmos, which is a classic.