

Essay assignment, due: December 1 (Thursday) in class.

Read the attached article from the New York Times, announcing the proof by Andrew Wiles of Fermat's Last Theorem.

Your assignment is to write a newspaper or magazine article announcing and explaining a "new" proof, by choosing one of the proofs we've done in class (see list below). You may be creative here, bringing in historical details from the time in which the theorem was proved, comments on the mathematician, etc. But be sure you include an explanation of the proof, understandable by a typical person-on-the-street of the day. You can use the article from the New York Times as a guide, or look up other popular accounts of mathematical results. If you feel so inspired, you might think about using the format of an interview with the mathematician (or some other appropriate fictional or historical character).

Your essay will be graded for correctness and completeness of your explanation of the theorem, as well as originality and creativity. You should also talk about the significance of the particular theorem, if relevant.

Here's a list of possible theorems/proofs:

Irrationality of square root of 2

Infinitude of primes

$V - E + F = 2$

There are only 5 Platonic Solids

If you want to choose another proof not on this list, please check with me first.

HAVE FUN!