

Read Keith Devlin's column [Letter to a calculus student](#) and the *Scientific American* article "[Equations Are Art inside a Mathematician's Brain.](#)" Write (type) an at least one single-spaced page response to these readings. This response should use ideas from the readings as a starting point, compare and contrast points from the readings and your learning about calculus, and include your own personal reflections. Your response may be strengthened by comparing ideas from other sources and supporting your points with additional research and/or your own experiences.

Your response should be at least **one single-spaced page long** using a standard font with a maximum 12pt size and should be a cohesive paper that flows well between topics, not a series of separate paragraphs responding to individual questions (though you should certainly use paragraphs). This assignment will be graded holistically and thus should be college-level writing with proper grammar and punctuation, so you will need to proofread your work. It's due at the beginning of class on **Wednesday, October 8.**

Here are some questions to consider as part of your cohesive response:

- What have you found beautiful in your study of mathematics?
- What do you think of the Bertrand Russell quotation at the beginning of Devlin's column?
- What is your response to Devlin's claim that the limit definition of the derivative is beautiful?
- Do you agree or disagree that equations can be beautiful? Why or why not?
- What do you think about the line in Devlin's column "Beauty—true, deep beauty, not superficial gloss—comes only with experience and familiarity"?
- What relationship (if any) do these articles help you see between mathematics and Christian faith?

Note: As always, I will consider giving extra credit for creative responses (i.e., other than a single-page paper). If you choose a more creative approach, just make sure that it still contains a sufficient amount of information.