

...mathematics cannot be defined without acknowledging
its most obvious feature: namely, that it is interesting.
— Michael Polyani

Studio visit proposal (in-class October 1)

What role does pattern, rhythm, and/or structure play in art, design, or creative writing practice at Pratt?

Write a paragraph describing one or two people at Pratt who you think might be open to discussing their creative work in terms of pattern, rhythm, structure or another mathematical notion. Your subject may be a professor, advisor, staff member, grad student, or peer. Be sure your paragraph includes:

- Their name, department or affiliation, and how you know them
- A brief description of their work and its relevance to this class
- Three questions you could ask to start the conversation

Illustrated transcript (due October 22)

As soon as I approve your proposal, politely request a brief studio visit by email (please cc me at pording@pratt.edu). I'm using the word "studio" broadly to mean a creative space. Whether or not they have a studio to visit, try to meet in person. Once confirmed, ask (politely!) for permission to record your interview. Make sure you know how to transcribe an audio recording, and bring pen & paper as backup. Be sure to arrive and depart on time. Your illustrated transcript must include:

1. 250-word introduction to the artist/designer/writer
2. Transcript of your interview, edited for clarity
3. Sample image(s) or excerpt(s) of their work that you discussed

Annotated source (due Nov 5)

Identify a published article on a math topic that you find relevant to your studio visit. Use the Library catalog, databases, and/or ILL to obtain a credible and readable source. A magazine, journal article, or book chapter are appropriate. Print a copy of the text and add the following annotations:

1. In the top margin of the first page, write the full bibliographic information (any citation style is fine)
2. Underline each key passage of the text and briefly note its relevance in the side margin nearby
3. In the bottom margin of one or more pages, add any question(s) the text prompts you to ask

Problem set (due Nov 19)

Pose 3-5 questions that explore the art/writing/design studio work from a mathematical perspective. You may find it helpful to reread Davis & Hersh's essay "The Creation of New Mathematics" posted October 1 for examples of how to generate interesting problems. Note: You are not expected to solve the problems that you pose. However, you should

- Define any needed math terms clearly and according to convention
- Offer illustrative examples, notation, and/or diagrams when possible
- Try to ask interesting questions that, in principle, have answers!

Revisions & layout (in-class Dec 3)**Final assembly** (in-class Dec 10)