

Writing Assignment # 2: Impressions of ϕ , the Golden Ratio

Due: Friday, February 6th, at the *beginning* of class.

This assignment is a follow-up to your group discussions (on Friday, January 30th) about the Golden Ratio which focused on the following readings:

- H.E. Huntley, The Divine Proportion: A Study in Mathematical Beauty, (Dover Publ., 1970), Chs. 2, 4, 5.
- G. Markowsky, "Misconceptions about the Golden Ratio," *College Mathematics Journal*, 23 (1), 1992.
- M.D. Schlatter, "Discovery or Creation?: Mathematical Platonism and the Visual Arts," preprint.

Your assignment should be **typed**, using only the **front side** of the paper, and should be stapled.

Assignment Instructions:

Please write a reflection paper on the readings above and your group discussions from Friday. Your paper should be a minimum of two pages in length and should address the points below. You may, of course, include other points as well, depending on your own interest.

- Your own impressions about the Golden Ratio ϕ , based on the readings, Wednesday's lecture, and your previous knowledge/experience with this topic (if any).
- A brief summary of your group's discussion on Friday, touching on the salient points. Depending on length, you may choose to focus on the reading questions that your group found most interesting or controversial and write about those.
- One or two points on which your group was able to easily agree, and one or two points on which you seemed to be divided, and in what way.
- Anything that you found surprising during this discussion (e.g. impressions shared by others in your group, a change in your own impressions changing based on the discussion)
- Your own opinion about the ubiquity of ϕ ! Overall, do you agree with the claims about the deliberateness of ϕ 's appearance in art and architecture, or do you with agree with the claims that ϕ is found because it is being sought by the viewer?