

Humanizing Mathematics Assignment

Watch [this interview with silviana amethyst](#) on Meet a Mathematician. As you watch, think about her path into mathematics, the challenges she faced, and the people who helped her along the way.

Instructions: Write a thoughtful reflection, about 1–2 pages. You may answer the questions one by one, or you may write in paragraphs that connect the ideas together. Try to use examples from the interview and from your own experience.

1. Who is silviana amethyst? What did you learn about her background, her work, and her path into mathematics? Look her up and say where she is working now.
2. What part of the interview stood out to you the most? Describe the moment and explain why it stayed with you.
3. silviana talks about struggling to understand the difference between zero and one in sixth grade. Describe a time when something in math, or in another subject, felt confusing or discouraging to you. How did you respond?
4. Her teacher helped her without making her feel ashamed. Think about a time when someone supported you, or a time when that kind of support would have helped. What kind of help makes it easier for you to keep trying?
5. Many people start to believe that they are either “good” or “bad” at math. How does silviana’s story challenge that idea? How have your own experiences shaped what you believe about yourself as a learner?
6. silviana’s story also brings up questions about representation and belonging in mathematics. What did her interview make you think about who feels welcome in math, and why that matters?
7. What is one thing you want to take away from this interview? This could be a lesson, a question, a piece of encouragement, or a different way of thinking about struggle.

You do not have to pretend that you had the same experience as silviana. The goal is to reflect honestly on what her story made you think about.