

Math 111 – Everyday Mathematics

Project 1: Math in the News

Although papers in mathematics courses are a bit unconventional, the purpose of this course is to teach quantitative reasoning skills useful in everyday life. The course projects will give you a chance to practice that.

For this first project, you will use the skills you've learned thus far to recognize math in the news and determine its validity. You should begin by finding a current events piece (2015 or later) that contains mathematical figures. These current events pieces might take the form of a news article, advertisement, news story, editorial piece, etc. You'll need to submit the piece with your written report of your findings, so if you're using a video make sure you keep a valid link to it.

Once you have found math in the news, your job is to channel your Fermi estimation skills and analyze its validity. Think of yourself as a fact-checker. Do the estimates seem reasonable? How did the author(s) come to their conclusions?

With your mathematical analysis complete, your final task is to write a 1-2 page (typed) report with the following information:

- A brief synopsis of the current events piece highlighting the role of mathematics;
- Your calculations/thought-process verifying the mathematics found in the current events piece;
- Concluding remarks summarizing your findings and a statement on the validity of the mathematics found in the current events piece.

This project is due on September 25th by the beginning of class. If you have any trouble finding an article, performing the necessary analysis, or putting your thoughts together in written form, please feel free to come by office hours to receive help!