Assignment #19

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For this assignment, you will improve your last paper's readability by developing the “voice” in your writing. Look back over the articles and books that you have read so far. Notice how *A Mathematician's Apology* has a very different feel from *Innumeracy* or *The Art of the Infinite*, even when they are discussing the same topic (for example, the irrationality of $\sqrt{2}$). Pay close attention to how the author uses language to develop a unique voice in their writing. How do different choices of phrasing, different orderings of topics, or different ways using words like “we” or “I” contribute to the overall feel of the piece you are reading? How does the author’s choice of voicing affect how invested you feel about what you are reading?

Once you have done this, consider what sort of voice would best suit your paper. Do you want a conversational approach, or would a more abstract narrative serve your argument better? Do you want your presence to be felt in the paper, or do you want the writing to appear to “come from above”? Do you want the reader to feel like they are developing the argument along with you, or do you want it to surprise them with a sudden twist? Decide on a coherent voice for your work, then modify your paper to incorporate this voice. You will probably need to modify and reorder many parts of your paper in order to make the voice that you choose come through clearly. It might be helpful to think to yourself as you rewrite “how would (Hardy/Halmos/Davis/Hersh/whoever) sound if they were writing this”?