Name : _____

Please answer the following questions as thoughtfully as possible, so that I can get to know you better:

1. Please describe your math history. What courses have you taken recently in either college or high school? how did you do in them? and how did you feel about them?

2. Think back on classes you have taken (not necessarily math) that you really liked, and classes you have taken that you really despised. What was it that made you like them or made you despise them:

Good	Bad

Now think about teachers you thought were good and bad for your style of learning…. What traits make you classify them as good or bad?

Good	Bad

3. Complete the following sentence.
"For me, math is like…..

4. What are your plans for the future? What math could you learn that would help you do your job better? or that would help you earn more money?

5. Describe is your anxiety level going in to this class? If it is high, what actions can take to control it?

6. What made you decide to come to Montgomery College?

7. What are your goals for this semester and this class?

8. Do you have a job outside of school? If so, what do you do in this job?

9. What are your passions? (Mine are my son, reading literature, European board games, music and baseball)

What your instructor has to say….

Here is what I hope will happen this semester:

1. You will increase your ability to learn and use mathematics
2. You will gain the ability to read, write, listen to, and speak math; develop convincing mathematical arguments, work effectively in groups, communicate mathematics orally and in writing
3. You will learn math through real-world applications and see connections between math and other disciplines
4. You will find our classroom to be a non-threatening environment where you are encouraged to ask questions

The success rate in Calculus II at Montgomery College is about 60%. I do not tell you this to scare you, but to emphasize how hard you need to work this semester. I really want each one of you to succeed. I want you to consider that what you do here in this class and at this college is important. This is your life. This is your current job which is training you for your future job. Thinking of your education as your job will impress upon you how important it is to be responsible for your own actions and decisions.

Most of you are here because you are Engineering, Math, or science majors. Calculus II is an important course in your mathematical maturation process. You can choose to learn or not to learn. The will to grow intellectually and to master an intellectual craft or discipline is an important part of a complete life.

It has been said you don't have to be a genius to study mathematics. What is necessary is an open mind and hard work. I hope you will keep this in mind this semester in math and in all of your other classes as well. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Don't be afraid to ask for clarification of a point or concept that does not make sense. Don’t be afraid to learn.

It is my belief that math at some point becomes hard for everyone. You will eventually reach a level that is beyond what you feel comfortable with. Different people reach this point at different points in their mathematical careers. That doesn't mean you should give up, it just means things are no longer easy and you're going to have to work to understand. There are times in my career where I took notes in class on something I didn't understand, went to the professor later for clarification, and then went back to the professor later to get clarification on his earlier clarification. Sometimes that's what it takes. If someone tells you that they’ve never felt this way in a math class, then they haven’t taken enough math classes.

I will be happy if you come away from my class this semester with a grade of B or better and saying "I sort of enjoyed it." We will work together to make that happen.

Remember, all things are difficult before they are easy.

10. Please share your thoughts on what you just read.

11. Tell me something interesting about yourself…