Mathematical Autobiography Project

First step: Make a list of TEN mathematical experiences. For example, what can you recall of learning to count? ..of learning to tell time...? of learning what fractions mean?...of your high school math classes and teachers? Each person should reach as far back into her/his personal history as possible. Review old report cards; talk to friends, parents, siblings, caretakers, etc. to collect information, anecdotes and experiences. Does your recollection of grades in your mathematics courses match the actual grades on your old report cards? [You might be surprised.]

The assignment: Referring to your first step, write an essay of 500 to 3000 words which relates some of the 10 experiences (at least five) in detail. Discuss how those experiences have influenced current attitudes, feelings, and thoughts about mathematics and life goals. Include names, locations. For example: "When I was in the ninth grade at Norco High School (that's in Riverside County in Southern California) I had an Algebra teacher named Miss Hauk who sometimes had us do math outside. One incident I recall vividly was the warm, sunny day and we..."

Please submit the final draft on paper. Due by January 30. This assignment will give you 15 points into the Project scores.