The Calculus Wars Assignment  
Honors Calculus 1, Fall 2007  

The class will be partitioned into four groups of four students each. **You** can talk with each other (through the D2L site, say) and **choose which group** you wish to work with. You should choose a group based on mutual interest in the topic or your presentation. Each group will give a written report and an in-class presentation on the chosen topic. The written report may include websites but **must** include at least two written works (books or journal articles) and should be at least 2000 words. The presentation should be given in PowerPoint, may include videos to illustrate your topic (but keep videos brief—no more than 2 minutes), should involve each member of the group, and should be about 20 minutes long. The written reports are due December 3 and the presentations will be given December 3 and 4. A group grade will be given with each member of the group getting the same grade, so work together and do your part!  

**Possible Topics**  

The following topics would be appropriate and closely related to the *Calculus Wars* book: Biography of Newton (concentrate on math), biography of Leibniz (concentrate on math), Newton’s work of 1665–66, Newton’s ideas of fluxions and fluents, Leibniz papers of 1684 and 1686, Newton’s *Opticks* (1704), Newton’s *Principia*, Calculus before Newton (Kepler, Archimedes, Cavalieri, Wallis), early ideas of “quadrature,” and Leibniz’s work in mechanics and the vortex theory. If you would like to do another topic, then let me know so that I can approve it. Each group will cover a different topic.  

**Possible Sources**  


5. *A Source Book in Mathematics* by David Eugene Smith, New York: McGraw Hill, 1929. Sherrod Library has this one (call number 510.Sm54). This includes excerpts for Leibniz’s 1684 and 1686 papers.  