Mathematical writing is much the same as writing in any other discipline. Typically, you are trying to convince the reader of the truth of a statement. The following guidelines will make your arguments clearer and more convincing.

1. Grammar
   - Use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. A sloppy or grammatically incorrect proof is not correct and will not receive credit.
   - Use complete sentences. Avoid run-on sentences and separate different ideas or parts into different paragraphs.
   - Use technical terms correctly.

2. Mathematical Symbols
   - Keep in mind that mathematical symbols stand for words. Sentences containing symbols should make sense as English sentences. Read the sentence aloud, substituting the correct words or phrases for the symbols, to be sure the sentence makes sense.
   - Minimize the use of mathematical symbols. However, if a mathematical symbol more clearly expresses an idea, then use the symbol. For example, instead of writing “the derivative of the function $f$ evaluated at $x = 2$”, write $f'(2)$.
   - Use symbols correctly. If you need to make your own notation, be sure to define it clearly.
   - A sentence must NEVER begin with a mathematical symbol.

3. Organization and Style
   - A proof must be well-organized and follow a straight path from hypotheses to conclusions.
   - A proof should have a beginning and end. The assumptions should be noted at the beginning and the conclusion at the end. These should not be left out simply because they appear in the statement of the proposition.
   - It should be made clear which statements follow from which other statements. A reason or justification for each implication should be given.
   - Assume the reader knows less about the proof than the writer. Do not use the fact that the instructor knows the answer as an excuse to be vague. Consider your audience to be fellow students.
   - Do not assume the reader can read your mind. The proof should be complete and clear on its own and should not require further interpretation on the part of the reader. After completing a proof, take a break and then reread it. If you cannot understand it, then do not expect anyone else to understand it.
   - Avoid irrelevant statements. Do not write down everything you know about the subject in the hopes that the instructor will find something relevant and correct.