

# MATH HOMEWORK GUIDELINES



Mathematics as a language and as such it has standards of writing which should be observed. In a writing class, you must respect the rules of grammar and punctuation, and write in organized paragraphs built with complete sentences. The final draft must be a neat paper with a title. It is essential that you **know the standards of writing math**, including Math Homework. Homework exercises are very important because learning is most effective when the student has frequent and repeated practice in applying skills.

There are certain standards for mathematics assignments. In addition, when you have made your work and reasoning clear, any difficulties you have in completing the assignment can be more easily discovered and then clarified by the grader. More importantly, however, completely worked and corrected **homework exercises make excellent study guides**. If you develop good habits while working on the homework, you will generally perform better on the tests.

## HOMEWORK GUIDELINES:

- Use 8.5" by 11" paper (not torn from spiral binders) and **STAPLE sheets together**. Do not use paper clips.
- **Print your name legibly** **in the upper corner** of the page.
- Label your homework on top of the page.  
For example: **Differential Equations, Homework #3, due 4/2/2011**
- When you start new chapter or section, label it: **Section 2.1 – Initial Value Problems** and also label each problem clearly.
- **Write your work legibly** using pencil, not pen.
- **Show all work** by writing all steps involved in solving problem in a neat and organized fashion with one step below the other.
- **Write all problems one below the other not next to each other**. Do not work in multiple columns down the page. Do not squeeze the problems together, with one problem running into the next. Use sufficient space for each problem, with at least one blank line between one problem and the next. **Leave the right half of the page blank**, you may use it later to write short explanation of the procedure, you may also write some notes, comments, theorems, formulas, etc., there.
- For tables and graphs, **use a ruler to draw the straight lines**, and clearly label the axes, the scale, and the points of interest. **Use a consistent scale** on the axes. Also, make your table or graph large enough to be clear. If you can fit more than three or four graphs on one side of a sheet of paper, then you're drawing them too small.
- Do not invent your own notation and abbreviations.
- If the problem is of the "Explain" or "Write in your own words" type, then copying the answer from the back of the book, or the definition from the chapter, is unacceptable. Write the answer in **your** words, not the text's.
- Remember to **put your final answer at the end** of your work, and **mark it clearly** by, for example, boxing it. Label your answer appropriately; if the question asks for measured units, make sure to put appropriate units on the answer. **If the question is a word problem, the answer should be in words.**
- **In general, write your homework as though you're trying to convince someone that you know what you're talking about.**