

Ten Steps to Doing Math Homework

based upon Paul Nolting's "Winning at Math"

- 1) **Commit.** It is important to commit to doing homework everyday. It was best to break it down into smaller amounts and not to try to do all your homework the night before it is due.
- 2) **Review the Related Textbook Material.** REREAD the section of the textbook and work through the examples in the section.
- 3) **Review your Lecture Notes.** REREAD your lecture notes and work through the examples from the lecture.
- 4) **Do your Homework Neatly.** Put your name, course and section number, and the chapter and section the homework is from at the top of the page. Write down each problem and label it. Work it in a neat and easy to read manner. Circle your final answer. Make sure that you use the same type of calculator on the homework as you will be allowed to use on the test.
- 5) **Write Down Every Problem Step.** Do not skip steps or try to do them in your head. Write down each step so you can follow what you are doing. This also helps in case you get the wrong answer and cannot find your mistake, you bring your work to your teacher or a tutor and we can figure out where the process broke down.
- 6) **Understand the Steps.** Understand the reasons behind each step taken to solve a problem. Do not just mimic the steps from another example, but understand and justify the process behind that step.
- 7) **Finish Successfully.** If you get stuck and can go no further on a homework assignment, go back to some problems you completed successfully and rework them successfully. This helps end on a positive note and helps re-enforce previously learned concepts.
- 8) **Put it on the Card.** Make-up note cards for difficult concepts and run through your stack of note cards whenever you have a five or ten minute break. This also allows you to continuously review.
- 9) **Do Not Get Behind.** Mathematics is like a language in that it builds on previously learned material. In order to complete the next homework assignment, you will need to complete and understand the previous homework assignments.
- 10) **Review Previous Material.** Always take time to review previously learned material. Go to the end of chapter summaries to refresh previous learned material in the chapter or previous chapter.