

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MATH HOMEWORK

- ◆ Schedule time everyday to work on your homework (as soon after class as possible)
- ◆ Read your math textbook.
 - ◆ Read with pencil in hand so you can write down any questions or comments.
 - ◆ Recite rules, ideas and concepts out loud.
 - ◆ Do the example problems in the book.
 - ◆ Use note cards for rules, formulas, procedures or steps.
 - ◆ Be aware of the language of math.
 - ◆ Keep a list of math vocabulary words.
 - ◆ Before your next class, read the section of your math book that the instructor plans to cover in class. Don't be concerned if you don't understand it at this point. The first reading is only to acquaint you with the material.
- ◆ Read your lecture notes (as soon after class as possible).
 - ◆ Fill in the gaps – Complete the sentences you couldn't finish because the instructor was talking faster than you could write. Fill in missing steps and explanations so you know how to get from one step to the next. Underline or **highlight** to emphasize important ideas and procedures.
- ◆ Read directions carefully.
- ◆ Name it – Identify the type of problem you are asked to solve.
 - ◆ By naming each problem and saying the name to yourself or out loud, before doing it, you are developing a habit that will help you in problem solving as well as test taking.
- ◆ Work carefully and neatly.
 - ◆ Look out for careless errors.
 - ◆ Check your answers – helps you catch your errors as you go.

- ◆ Mark *problem* problems.
 - ◆ Mark problems you are still unable to do.
 - ◆ Do not erase wrong attempts (instructor or tutor can help you pinpoint your error)
- ◆ Get **all** questions answered.
 - ◆ Ask during or after class, as soon as you can.
 - ◆ Don't be afraid to get help from a tutor if your instructor is unavailable.
- ◆ Work with others.
 - ◆ Study groups benefit everybody in the group.
 - ◆ To get the most from study groups:
 - ⊕ Everybody should come prepared, have read the text, and tried the problems.
- ◆ Review frequently (at least once a week).
- ◆ If you have to miss a class:
 - ◆ Get missed assignments.
 - ◆ View a DVD on the missed material if possible.
 - ◆ Copy someone else's notes.
 - ◆ Have someone record the lecture if possible.
- ◆ Use available resources such as tutors in the ARC Learning Lab, DVD's, websites, handouts, computer software, etc.
- ◆ **PRACTICE – PRACTICE – PRACTICE!**