

Geometry - Doing Your Homework

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BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: Homework is an extremely important part of any course in mathematics. Homework problems are your opportunities to explore new ideas, try out a new method, and find out if you understand how to apply a particular idea. Possibly most important, homework is an opportunity to hone your mathematical creativity. Homework is not something that you should work through quickly or carelessly. Your thoughtful participation on out-of-class assignments is necessary if you wish to be prepared for in-class activities and discussions.

GUIDELINES FOR *DOING* HOMEWORK:

1. For each and every problem, show your work - e.g., your process, when possible. I know that there will be times when illustrating your process will prove difficult. Do your best.
2. Do all homework assignments in pencil, preferably mechanical pencil, as you will find that it is much neater.
3. Be prepared for class. This means coming to class with specific questions to ask to help you understand the problem. Do all of your corrections in **colored ink**, so that I can be aware of the topics that caused you the most difficulty. This will also benefit you in your studying, as you will be able to go back and focus on the problems in colored ink.
4. Working together on homework is completely acceptable. Please feel free to do this; however, please also note the difference between *working together* and *copying from*. Working together means that 2 or more students sit together and discuss homework problems. If one person thinks she has a good strategy, she offers her idea to the group. The other students ponder her strategy and decide whether or not it is a good idea. Then, each student writes up how to do the problem on his/her own. Meanwhile, I think that everyone understands what *copying from* means.
5. Daily homework assignments will be due during the next class meeting after they were assigned, unless otherwise noted by me. All other assignments will have specific due dates listed the course website.

GRADING SPECIFICS:

1. Late papers will generally not be accepted. If something came up in your life, such as you were sick, had a family event, or an important holiday celebration, please tell me. I want to accommodate your outside-of-class needs. If you simply forget to do your homework, I will allow **two** homework assignments to be turned in late all semester. After your two freebies, you will receive zeros for assignments not completed.
2. Most of your daily homework assignments will be graded on an *effort* basis and out of 10 points. The following guidelines outline what I am looking for in a homework assignment that receives a 10/10:
 - a. All homework problems were tried.
 - b. Homework was completed in pencil.
 - c. If a particular problem was discussed during class, this problem has been **thoroughly** corrected, including the problem-solving process. This process is done in **colored ink**.
 - d. Name, date, and assignment are clearly written at the top of the page.
 - e. The assignment is turned in on time.
3. Now and then, you might receive special problem sets that I will grade for accuracy. You will have ample warning if this happens, and this will not happen often.

DOING TEST CORRECTIONS:

After each test, all students who score less than a 95% will need to turn in corrections. Corrections are scored out of 10 points, are graded for accuracy, not effort, and are a test grade, not a homework grade. I assign corrections so that you can go over the topics that you missed, and hopefully work at understanding them better. By making test corrections a test grade, I hope to help your grade. To that end, please start working on your corrections immediately, so that if you run into trouble, you will have ample time to meet with me. In general, I will give you about one week to work on test corrections.