

Algebra II Pre-AP
How to Grade Your Daily Assignments

Philosophy: Algebra II is primarily a skills class. Acquiring and mastering these skills will require not only working the assignments, but also identifying and correcting mistakes. Students who do not take the time to correct their mistakes are likely to repeat them. Students who analyze their work and learn from their mistakes will derive much more benefit from the class. Not only will they have a deeper and more enduring understanding of mathematics, but they will also become more analytical and detail-oriented in everything that they do.

For each daily assignment, do all of the following:

1. Using a pencil and working on notebook paper and/or graph paper, work the entire assignment. Remember that all graphs require graph paper, even when the directions say “sketch.”
2. Draw a line across the page below the last problem that you worked. Label this lower part of the page as “Corrections.”
3. Go to the web site and carefully CHECK your answers. Use a pen to mark any answers on your paper that are wrong, but do NOT write down the correct answer. When I look at your paper, I should easily be able to tell which problems you missed.
4. In the “Corrections” area, completely re-work any problems that you missed. Show all steps, and try to figure out where you went astray.
5. Repeat steps 3 – 4 until all answers are correct.
6. All work from steps 3 – 5 inclusive should go in this “Corrections” part of your paper. Do NOT erase anything that you did earlier.
7. Be sure to put a GRADE at the top of your paper indicating how many problems you eventually got correct, including the ones that you corrected.
8. At the top of your paper, list any problems that gave you particular trouble. This will accomplish at least 2 things. First of all, when I collect assignments, I will be able to identify problems that were missed by many students and therefore warrant further attention. Secondly, when you are preparing for a test, you will have a quick way of identifying problems that gave you difficulty and perhaps should be worked again.

Some additional thoughts:

- You really need to identify and fix your mistakes BEFORE you get to class. In general, we simply won't have much time during class to rehash homework problems. The homework answers are posted online specifically so you can accomplish this.
- Honest and accurate grading of daily assignments is the student's responsibility. Multiple instances of inaccurate grading – whether on one assignment or multiple assignments – can be construed as dishonesty and can result in grades as low as 0 for any assignments involved. Please be vigilant in your grading to get maximum benefit from assignments and to avoid any perceptions of willful misrepresentation.

Before you turn in your next assignment, go through it carefully and make sure that you have addressed all of the conditions above. After that, just make these steps part of your daily process. Once you establish consistent homework habits, these guidelines will become part of your routine, and you will hopefully find that you are getting more benefit out of the time that you spend doing daily assignments.