

Getting the Most out of Homework: Strategies for Success

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Guiding Principles:

- Homework should give students opportunities to **think** about **mathematics**
- Be clear about goals and expectations for homework

Strategies (Habits of Practice):

- **Habit of Practice 1:**
Create assignments that require thinking about mathematics
 - Give students example answers to critique
 - Have students create problems with particular features
- **Habit of Practice 2:**
Encourage Metacognition
 - Have students evaluate their performance/indicate problem difficulty
 - Have students explain what strategy they used when they got stuck
 - Give students choice based on self-evaluation
- **Habit of Practice 3:**
Teach explicit strategies for success
 - Name successful HW Strategies
 - Use examples from notes or textbook when you are confused or stuck
 - Try a problem, leave it, come back later
 - Identify exactly what you are confused about, and make a question
 - Get help from others (i.e. ask question from previous step)
 - Model strategies in class
 - Give students time to practice strategies in class
 - Assign HW buddies
- **Habit of Practice 4:**
Create structures and routines
 - Choosing what HW to discuss
 - Responding to student questions

Excerpt from a “Typical Homework”

Solve these systems of equations

1. $2x + 3y = 30$
 $5x - 3y = 12$

2. $y = 3x - 8$
 $2y - 5x = -8$

3. $3x + 2y = 14$
 $5x + 7y = 16$