Guidelines for Homework Assignments

Math 74, Fall 2006

1. Use separate sheet(s) of paper for each problem and don't write on both sides of a sheet.

2. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you have to give a clear, convincing argument for every assertion you make.

3. Do not simply turn in your scratchwork. After you figure out how to solve a homework problem, rewrite your solution on a new sheet of paper using your scratchwork as a guide.

4. Before you begin a proof, state what you are proving in the form of a proposition or lemma or theorem.

5. All homework solutions must be written in good English. All math notation, formulas and calculations must be embedded in complete sentences, using proper grammar.

6. Don't write too small. It is probably a good idea to double-space your proofs when writing on notebook paper. You can reread your own work better this way, and it is easier on your readers' eyes. If you have really bad handwriting, consider learning LaTeX.

7. When you are finished writing a solution to a homework problem, read it critically. Pretend you are reading something written by one of your classmates or a younger sibling. Does it make sense? Could it be improved for clarity? Is the notation consistent and used properly?

8. After you turn in each assignment, read through the solutions carefully. There are two reasons for doing this: first, you may find a simple proof or a clever argument you didn't think of; second, you might find the same argument you gave, only written with more clarity and precision.