Math Study Tips

Objective: Master the concept so that you are able to solve any problem of this type on the test. This involves:

- Identifying the problem type on the test
- Knowing what formulas to use
- Explaining the steps for solving that type of problem every time you encounter it
- Understanding why you are doing each step

Remember to focus on the problem-solving process rather than getting the right answer. Understanding how to solve the type of problem is the most important part, not memorizing the steps to solve one particular math problem. The problems on the test will look different than the ones on the practice test or the homework. You want to be able to solve any problem on the test, not just know how to solve the problems on your practice tests.

Studying for a Test

1. Make a "problem type" study list. List every problem type from the homework and in-class worksheets.

2. Create a practice test that includes 2 of each type of problem. Be sure to include any special situations or variations that impact the problem-solving steps or the final answer. (Example: changing the direction of the inequality because of a negative.)

3. Complete your practice test. Be sure to do the following for each problem:
   A. Explain what you are being asked to solve.
   B. List the concepts that are being tested in the question (speak or write).
   C. Write down the formulas that you need to solve the problem.
   D. Solve the problem. Show your work on each step.
   E. Say in your head what you did to solve the problem and why you did each step.

4. Identify and focus on your weaknesses. What problems are you struggling with? Is there anything you are worried you could not do on the test? Complete additional practice problems for those types, repeating the steps in #3 when solving.

5. Simulate the test. The day before the test, complete the practice exam again. This time, make it timed at the same length as you have for the exam. Also, make sure to have no materials in front of you.