

BASIC INSTRUCTION VOCABULARY

Simplify *in algebra, to condense an algebraic expression by grouping similar terms and reducing constants to their lowest terms.

- To do:**
- ① use order of operations (**PEMDAS**)
 - ② combine like terms

Evaluate *to find the value of

- To do:**
- ① place each given value in place of its variable (use parentheses)
 - ② simplify and if requested, identify if equation is true or false

Isolate a variable in an equation

- To do:**
- ① **use the same operation** to simplify each side of the equation.
 - ② if the variable is on both sides of the equation, **use the opposite operation** to move it across the equal sign to the left side.
 - ③ **use the opposite operation** to move any addition/subtraction away from the letter to the other side of the equal sign.
 - ④ **use the opposite operation** to move any multiplication/division away from the letter to the other side of the equal sign.

Solve *find a value to make the equation true, or an answer to a problem.

- To do:**
- ① you may need to simplify the equation first.
 - ② If there is a variable, you may need to isolate it.
 - ③ If the answer is a fraction, reduce it to lowest terms.

*Definitions are from Dictionary of Mathematics, NTC Publishing Grp:Illinois,1996