The "Neat and Picky" Rules of Algebra

Simon

Rule #1: Show each step in the equation

Make sure that you show each step in the equation when you write a problem out. If you make a mistake, you will not know where you made it.

Example: a-12=16

$$+12 \quad +12$$

$$a \quad = 24$$

Rule #2:Write vertically so your solution is on the last line

Make sure that you put your steps in order.

If you don't put them in the right order you will get the problem wrong.

Put the solution underneath each step.

Example: $5r + 13 = 43$

$$-13 \quad -13$$

$$\frac{5r}{5} = \frac{30}{5}$$

$$r = 6$$

Rule #3: Line up the equal signs

Lining up the equal signs is very important because every thing is easy to read and organized.

Example: a + 36 = 87

 - 36   - 36

 a = 51

Rule #4: Balance the equation

When doing an equation, you must do the same thing to the each side of the equation

If you do not balance the equation, you will not get the right answer because each side will not be equal.

Example: e − 3 = -2

+ 3   +3

e   = 1

Rule #5:Put the variable on the left of the equal sign

When you found the answer, put the variable on the left because the variable equals the number, and the number doesn't always equal the variable.

Example: g=5

Non-Example: 7=u

Rule #6:Always check your solution

After you have finished the problem, your work is not done! You must check the answer every time. If the check works, your answer is correct

Example: q + 7= 12   Check: 5 + 7=12

       - 7   - 7

       q   = 5

Rule #7: Write neatly!!!

You must write neatly!! If you write sloppily, the teacher will not be able to grade your work, and you will not get credit for your hard work!

Non-Example: e+67=96

Example: e+67=96

Conclusion

So there you have it: the 7 "Neat and Picky" rules of Algebra. Just follow these rules, and pretty soon the good grades will start rolling in!