

GRAPHING GUIDELINES

Creating accurate graphs is important for understanding the relationship between algebra and geometry (formulas and shapes). Graphs present visual images of important algebraic relationships. If your graphs are inaccurate or poorly drawn, your understanding of these relationships will not be properly developed.

Practicing the creation of good, neatly drawn graphs and attention to detail will go a long way to increase your understanding of this important aspect of algebra.

Following the suggestions below will help you achieve this goal:

1. Use graph paper for all graphs.
2. Do not construct more than 4 coordinate systems on one sheet of graph paper. Your graphs must be large enough to illustrate the important aspects of the algebraic relationships and for these images to be imprinted in your mind.
3. Include a scale for all graphs. Label the axes with an appropriate scale.
4. Plot points with integer coordinates, if possible, to create accurate graphs. Avoid plotting fractions, unless absolutely necessary.
5. Use a fine-point pencil to draw graphs to maintain accuracy.
6. Use a ruler or straight-edge to graph all lines, including the axes.
7. Extend your graphs to the edges of the coordinate system, if they continue on infinitely.