

Engineering Department: Standard Engineering Problem Format  
September 26, 2003

A. Ethics of Homework Production

Homework is given to promote learning. Therefore, all homework must be your independent work, unless the assignment is for groups. You may discuss the solution concepts and answers in the process of learning, but the presentation—a hand-written solution, CAD drawing, lab report or computer script—should be entirely your own work done without assistance from another student, a solution manual, an Internet site or homework archives. *You should neither use another student's homework nor allow access to yours.*

B. Physical Format and Labeling

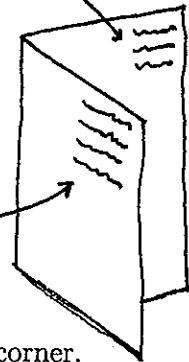
1. Use only one side of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  x 11-inch size engineering paper. Watch carefully for teachers that require starting a new sheet of paper for each problem. Computer generated homework need not be on engineering paper.

2. All homework should be clearly labeled *inside* with the following information at the top of the page.

- Student Name
- Course Identification
- Problem Number

3. Work should be folded lengthwise with the following on the *outside*.

- Student Name
- Course Identification
- Problem Numbers
- Due Date



4. Work containing multiple sheets must be stapled in the upper left hand corner.

C. Problem Presentation

The methodology presented below has been created to demonstrate a process that provides a reproducible solution. Mysterious methodologies are not acceptable.

1. Include a problem statement sufficient to enable completion of the problem without referral to the textbook.
2. Drawings, free body diagrams, graphs must be provided and oriented correctly on the page. In certain classes such as Statics and Dynamics, free body diagrams are always necessary and required. If in doubt, draw something. Drawings must be drawn to scale when possible.
3. Present solutions clearly and neatly, explaining steps and assumptions made to complete the work.
4. Final numerical answers must show correct units and must be rounded off to an appropriate number of significant digits. Default precision for answers is three significant figures. Otherwise, precision must be consistent with the problem context.
5. Clearly identify conclusion(s), answer(s) or final design(s), numerical or otherwise.
6. Essay homework problems must be typed.

D. Consequences, Penalties, and Cruel or Unusual Punishment

Watch carefully for consequences provided by teachers when this standard homework format is not followed.