

Advice to give students:

Starting the homework

When you open any C&M notebook, and it asks "Do you want to evaluate the initialization cells?" you should ALWAYS say yes.

Next, put in a text cell at the top with the names of every member of your group. To make a cell into a text cell, click on the cell bracket, then go to the Format Menu, and choose Style and then Text.

If you weren't assigned to do every problem in the whole assignment, it's best to delete the problems you weren't assigned. If you're assigned some parts of an individual problem, you should probably not delete the parts which weren't assigned--they might help you figure out the parts you have to do.

Highlighting

To distinguish your work and answers from the questions and given explanations, put your work into separate cells BELOW the question, and then change the color of the text and/or the background on all the cells you made.

To do this, highlight the cell (click on the cell marking at the far right), then go up to the Format menu and choose "Text Color" or "Background Color." To make your grader especially happy, choose colors that make your work easy to read and are easy on the eyes.

Be sure your solution is in Mathematica text, and not as math input. If what you write looks like the code that Mathematica executes, highlight it and change it to text. You can do this by pressing Command-7 or going to the Format->Style menu.

Include the calculations that helped you get started as well as the ones that produce your final answer. A really important part of most answers is your text explanation. Don't highlight the stuff that was originally there!

Saving your homework and getting a good grade

The best place to save your homework is on the ClassComm server. Just save your file to the desktop, go to ClassComm's Homework link and click on Upload File. After you've saved your file there, go back and delete it from the desktop so nobody cheats off your work!

Always explain what you are doing, even if it seems obvious to you. We want you to learn to express what you are learning, so use complete sentences to describe how your answer solves the problem.

*** Be sure to save homework often when working on it. It is disheartening to have your files come up corrupted after you and your partner worked on them for hours. It is best to save after you type in every new cell. Keep backup copies of all prior work.

Finally, remember that you only learn the things you work on, so don't be tempted to split the problems between members of your group.