

# POTW



# Guidelines



# Problem of the Week

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**Do the Math!**

## Problem of the Week Guidelines

This is supposed to be a harder problem that takes some real thought. Do not wait until the night before it is due to start your work!

The POTW is worth 10 points. Here is the point breakdown:

**Rewrite** the problem in your own words. Make sure to include all important details needed to solve the problem and the questions to be answered. *1 point*

**Answer** the problem correctly. Write your answer in one or two complete sentences. Even if you are not sure of the answer, give your best guess. *2 points*

**Explain** clearly the process that you used to solve the problem. Include the drawings, calculations, charts, etc. that you used. If you tried something and it didn't seem to work, explain that too! These problems will get hard enough that you won't solve them all on the first try. Your explanation should be at least a paragraph, and probably two or three. *5 points*

**Justify** your answer. Explain why you believe your answer is correct, or why you chose that answer instead of a different possibility. Is your answer reasonable? Does it answer the question? Are there other possible answers? *2 points*

A well-written POTW will be at least one full page. You do not have to use a word processor but it does help make your paper look nicer.

Notice that getting the answer right is worth only 2 out of 10 points. If you get a wrong answer but really explain it well and provide a good reason for why you believe it is correct, you could still get 8/10. If you get the right answer but do not explain or justify it, you could get just 2/10. Explain! Show the reader your thought process, the problem solving methods you used, and explain your solution so clearly that a person who did not understand how to solve the problem will understand it after reading your work.

You may talk about this with your family members, but you should do the work of figuring this out. Please do not talk about the problem with other students, no matter what.

Your POTW will be graded according to the points listed above. Take your time, think, and write well.

