

## Writing Assignment 1

Due: Thursday, October 25, 2012

Read the sections on polynomials in your textbook. In order to demonstrate your understanding of sections P4, P5, and P6, you are to write a 1 – 2 page essay (it can be longer). In this essay, you must weave together an understanding of polynomials and how they work under the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Your essay must be clear, concise, organized, and well written. **At a minimum, you must address the following questions:**

- What is a polynomial?
- How are polynomials added and subtracted?
- How are polynomials multiplied? (Include a discussion of the distributive property)
- How and why do we factor polynomials?
- What are the various methods for factoring polynomials?
- Where do special product properties come from?
- What is a rational expression?
- What is the difference between the domain of a rational expression and the domain of a polynomial?
- How and why do we simplify rational expressions?
- How do we multiply and divide rational expressions?

### Format:

- Typed 12 point font Times New Roman
- 1 inch margins
- Double Spaced
- Heading in the top left corner:  
Your Name  
Assignment Name  
Due Date

Be sure to use examples to back up your answers. This essay must be ORGANIZED and typed. Avoid grammatical errors. This is an opportunity to be creative and show that you understand mathematical concepts without the constraint of “right or wrong” answers.

There is a Rubric attached. The essay will be graded according to the Rubric. The essay is worth a test grade.

If you have any questions about the essay, you may e-mail me at [matthews.kelly@ufl.edu](mailto:matthews.kelly@ufl.edu).

