

How to Show Work

Physics

In order to earn the most possible points on tests, quizzes, and labs, you should show your work in order to maximize partial credit. This means making it easy for me to find HOW you got all of your answers so I can identify and compensate for any mistakes you made. If I can track your mistakes easily, I can avoid taking off points for “cascading errors” (where a mistake in one calculation causes you to get an incorrect number in another calculation). I can also give you points for each step of the problem-solving process you do correctly, even if you end up with an incorrect number along the way.

Here are the most important things to do and clearly show in your work:

1. Be as neat and organized as possible
 - a. Write clearly, legibly, and reasonably large
 - b. Organize your work in rows and columns and indicate (by location or with arrows) connections between variables and equations
2. When rounding, use the smallest number of digits that are practical (often two decimal places)
3. Show all equations in their “raw” form before substituting
4. Highlight your answers
5. Indicate different sections of a problem
6. Clearly inventory your variables (if necessary, for each section or dimension of a problem)
7. Your overall goal is to make it as easy as possible for me to grade your work!