

Mathematical problems often can be answered by simply writing down the answer:

Example: Solve: $3x + 2 = 17$ Answer: $x = 5$.

Remark: you may wish to write intermediate steps and/or check your answer.

Some exercises are a little different. Instead of finding a numerical answer, you are asked to write a paragraph on a given topic. Now, a paragraph is not always necessary—you may be able to respond properly with a single sentence. But it is important that you should write at least one complete sentence in your response.

IMPORTANT:

1. Please do not begin your response with “Yes,” “No,” or “Because.”
2. Please phrase your answer in a way that someone can understand what you are talking about without reading the question.
3. If possible, avoid simply copying something from the book. Instead, try to explain it in your own words. Doing so will improve your understanding of the concept.
4. An illustration or example often will greatly clarify your response.

Let’s look at an example.

Problem R.1.69 in the College Algebra Book states: “How would you convince a classmate that division is not associative?”

A good response would be:

To convince someone that division is not associative, I would simply show the following example: $24 \div 6 \div 2$, done two different ways.

Grouping one way, we have: $(24 \div 6) \div 2 = 4 \div 2 = 2$

However: $24 \div (6 \div 2) = 24 \div 3 = 8$

Since we get two different answers depending on the grouping, the operation of division does not have the associative property.

Notes: 1. This response can be understood without referring to the question.

2. The example greatly clarifies the answer.

3. The response is written in complete sentences.