Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

MATH: TWO-COLUMN NOTETAKING

The two-column method is a technique for studying the steps in computing a math problem.
To use this system:

1. **Divide a piece of paper down the middle.**
2. **On one side, write the first step of the problem in numbers and math symbols.**
3. **On the other side, write what occurred in your own words or the lecturer's words.**
4. **Continue writing the steps and the words until the problem reaches a conclusion.**

	MATH SIDE		WORD SIDE
	Problem: 5 x 2 2/3 = ?		
1.	5 x 2 + 5 x 2/3	1.	Multiply 5 by 2 and 5 by 2/3
2.	10 + 5/1 x 2/3	2.	5 x 2 = 10 and $\frac{5}{1} \times \frac{2}{3}$ multiply numerators / multiply denominators
3.	10 + 10/3	3.	5/1 x 2/3 = 10/3
4.	$10 + \frac{9 + 1}{3}$	4.	separate numerator into the factors of the denominator
5.	10 + 9/3 + 1/3	5.	separate the fractions
6.	10 + 3 + 1/3	6.	reduce the fractions
7.	13 + 1/3	7.	add the whole numbers
8.	13 1/3	8.	the answer

For more information, visit or call your nearest Rutgers Learning Center, or visit our website:http://rlc.rutgers.edu

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