

T-NOTES IN PROBLEM-SOLVING CLASSES

Many courses, such as math, science, economics, and accounting, use class time to go over sample problems. In these instances, you need to take notes on the problem itself and on the verbalization of the steps. Using T-Notes to record information from these classes can be very useful (Sellers, Dochen, & Hodges, 2015).

HOW TO CREATE T-NOTES

- 1) Divide your paper into sections by drawing a big “T.”
- 2) Above the T, write the title of the lecture or major topic. Include your name, date, and page number on the left or right side.
- 3) Write the verbal explanation of the problem on the left-hand side.
- 4) Write the example of the problem on the right-hand side.

EXAMPLE OF T-NOTES IN MATH

Name of Lecture or Topic

Name and Page Number

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Date

Rod Hill p. 25	The Quadratic Formula $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	2-11
X represents the solutions of: $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$	Ex 1: Solve $5x^2 - 8x + 3 = 0$ (Already in stand. form) $a = 5, b = -8, c = 3$	
Steps:	Using quad form:	
1. First must find standard form of equation	$x = \frac{-(-8) \pm \sqrt{(-8)^2 - (4)(5)(3)}}{2(5)}$	
2. Then should try and factor — if it is not possible, then use the quad formula	$\frac{x = \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{64 - 60}}{10} = \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{4}}{10}}$	← Example Problem
3. Determine values for a, b, c and substitute into formula: $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	$x = \frac{8 \pm 2}{10}$	
4. The solutions of any quadratic equation can be found by using the quad formula (ALWAYS!)	So, $x = \frac{8 - 2}{10} \text{ or } x = \frac{8 + 2}{10}$ $x = \frac{6}{10} \text{ or } x = \frac{10}{10}$	
	So, $x = \frac{3}{5} \text{ or } x = 1$	
	Thus, the solutions are 3/5 & 1	

Verbal Explanation of Example Problem