MAT 121 Writing Projects for College Algebra

Projects are to be submitted on UNLINED (for instance, copier) paper. Write on only one side of each page. Leave room. Make it PROFESSIONAL-looking!

Project #1. The three ways to solve a quadratic equation are:

- 1. Factoring
- 2. Completing the Square
- 3. Quadratic Formula

Solve each of the following quadratic equations in *all three ways*.

1.
$$x^2 + 4x - 21 = 0$$

2.
$$6x^2 - x - 12 = 0$$

Solve the following quadratic equation by *quadratic formula and completing the square*:

3. $x^2 - 6x - 5 = 0$

Discuss (1 page) the advantages and disadvantages of each method, and when one method might be preferred over another.

Project # 2. Completing the Square to graph a quadratic function.

Complete the square for each of the following and graph the function by transforming the function $f(x) = x^2$, using Section 1.5 techniques.

- 1. $g(x) = x^2 16x + 64$
- 2. $h(x) = 2x^2 3x + 6$
- 3. $w(x) = -x^2 + 4x 15$

There is a <u>Handout for Basic Functions and Transformations</u> that you would be wise to reference. There is also a <u>Handout for Completing the Square and Graphing Quadratic</u> <u>Functions</u> and an <u>Accompanying Video</u>

Project # 3. Take-Home Test

- 1. I will deliver this test to you via e-mail.
- 2. This will coincide with Test 3, and count as *part* of the Test 3 score (20%),

Project # 4. The three kinds of Linear Systems

1. Submit three examples of linear systems in *three variables* and solve them using Gauss-Jordan reduction.

i.One of the three systems will be inconsistent.

ii.One of the systems will be consistent, with a unique solution.

iii.One of the systems will be consistent, with infinitely many solutions.

2. The student will discuss each system in a few sentences.