

The First Study Group

1. Meet at the Resource Center, in the basement of the classroom building.
2. If you haven't done so already, collect contact information for everyone in your group. Spend a bit of time thinking about how you'd like the group to run ... you won't necessarily know yet, but you can talk about what works best for you when you work with other people. Do you like to brainstorm at the beginning with someone else, or do you prefer to have a little time to think by yourself first? Talk about how you can make the group work for everyone. It will probably take some time to figure out how you work best together. Soon you'll have an ML, but this week you're on your own.
3. Pick a name for your group and a sequence of reporters. Some groups pick a name that is an acronym made from the initials of people in the group to help remember the sequence of reporters -- this is optional and can be hard to do if no one's name starts with a vowel. Be sure you know who is this week's reporter, before you start working on the problem.
4. The reporter's job is to email me a report at least an hour before the next class (right after the group is best, if possible) and to be prepared to be a spokesperson for the group in the next class. See below for more details about the emailed report.
5. Work on the Biggest Product Problem. Don't rush. It's more important that you engage seriously with some of the material than that you get to all of it. If you finish everything on the sheet, think of extension problems and try them. For example, what if the numbers that add to N don't have to be natural numbers, what if you can use something like $10=2.7+7.3$; how does this change your result?
6. Leave a little time at the end of the group to think about how you will present your work to the class. If you wish, you can make an overhead or a word processor file to project on the smartboard (or talk about how you will make it, and have one person make it after group).
7. Take good notes during study group. After study group clean them up a bit, perhaps adding more thoughts, and write a brief reflection about the study group. Note that study group homework is "regular homework" for everyone in the group and might be collected (you can use it in your portfolio too).
8. The reporter should email me a report before class on Friday. Include at least one paragraph describing your mathematical results in detail; one paragraph describing places where you struggled or got stuck, again with mathematical detail; and one paragraph describing the dynamics of your group, the name of your group, etc. Include whatever else you like. The report should be a summary with mathematical detail, but not a play-by-play.