

# Math 120 Survey – Fall 2007

## 1 Textbook

**Please make comments on the textbook, so that we can make it a better experience for the students taking Math 120 next semester. For example: Did you find it easy to read? Did it provide enough information to complete the homework problems? Did you prefer the CD version or the printed version? Any particular chapters that were better or worse than the others, and why? etc.**

The textbook was very easy to understand, and broke down complex ideas into simple parts. I think the printed version was easier to read, though, because I'm used to learning from an actual textbook.

I found that the text was good at providing enough info to keep up with the course in most chapters. Chapter 5 was very difficult for me to work through though and chapter 6 should have given a little more about asymptotes (like I still don't know how to pronounce them or why they are important). I could not have done this course without the physical text book. Trying to do the homework using only the CD would not have worked for me at all (I take notes in the book), so I recommend future students to buy it. It's great that it is inexpensive!

I really liked the digital version of the textbook. It was very helpful for me as I have a laptop that is with me at all times. So my book was with me the whole time. It was nice to be able to print out certain chapters and to be able to mark on my own printed material without having to worry about damaging the original copy. Also having the textbook downloadable from any location was very nice. I also loved the fact that I didn't have to pay for the book as text books for classes are getting very expensive.

At times it was hard to understand. It had been three years since I had taken algebra, so I think that was why it was so hard for me. I had a friend that helped me get through the first couple of chapters that I did not understand the wording on how to do the problems. She understood the text book well enough to help me. I don't think that one chapter was harder to understand than the others. I had no problem doing the homework problems from the way the text shows how to do them. I like how the examples are shown step by step. I did not have the CDs I only had the printed version and the website.

The book was pretty easy to read, I had to search out some answers from other sources to get the answers answered. I had a hard time with the difference between the opimath and the text. it might be nice to have some examples in the book about the opimath program. Especially when it comes to writing out the problems from the homework assignment to the opimath. I preferred the printed verison. I struggled with the last three chapters.

It was a little difficult to follow, and it went about most operations in ways that were much different than previous classes had taught. I found chapter 7 the most difficult; I think it was a combination of many new disciplines and quite a few unit sections to absorb in a short window. I personally printed out the book unit by unit from the website as I went, which worked ok, but it did create a lot of paper use. And one thing that was sometimes

amplified by printing it out, and I guess it could pose the same problem just reading it from the website, was that a lot of the time the figures and diagrams ended up on different pages in a lot of cases, which makes for a pain at times following the train of operation. But I will say that it was much better than spending over \$100 dollars on a math text.

I thought the book was extremely thorough and well thought out. It was student friendly; the terminology and explanations were easy to understand. It made sense and clearly described each topic and application. When it came to the homework problems, the solutions were most of the time clear and sufficient. Some of the solutions skipped steps during the process of completing a problem. If one didn't understand that kind of problem, someone could get lost. For the most part I understood everything and if something was foggy it became clear during a class session. The tips, warnings, definitions, and summary sections in the chapters were extremely helpful. I preferred the text book on the math 120 website. It was nice having a CD for when my internet would fail to work. I wished that the text on the CD was set up exactly as the website version with each section and subsection visible altogether instead of being contained in different files. That is if it is even possible to do that. I never had a hard copy of the text book and didn't feel like it was necessary in order to have the full benefit of the text.

I did find the text easy to read, and I enjoyed the display of colors. I liked that the writers included familiar characters from our time, and places from our immediate area in various examples and problems. Bert and Ernie have been part of my household experience, since my children grew up watching them on Sesame Street. I found the CD to be a convenient choice, as the printed text was quite large and heavy for me to carry to and from school. However, I think it is important to consider one's availability of a computer. So I like that there is a choice to have either one, or even both, or all of the printed version and/or CD. I am wondering if the solutions, especially toward the end of chapter 8, could have included more steps. That might have been better for me when we got into Logarithms. I was also thinking that maybe there could be a special page that would display each function as a graph included with the name of the function that applies to each graph. Such as: these are the examples and names of each function (polynomial, quadratic, rational, etc.) and its graph that this book is considering. It could be a special page at the beginning of the book, as part of the introduction. And a wonderful picture of the graph of a function, including its name, could be displayed at the beginning of the section that addresses that particular function.

I used the printed version and found it to be adequate, though I didn't find it easy to read and it left me referring to the solutions often to find the form of the answers required. If it would be possible to have the reading material in a little less math speak I think the reading would have flowed better. And as we know, there still needs to be more editing done especially to the solutions to avoid frustration.

I found that the textbook was very helpful in learning Math 120. There were a few spots where it got difficult to figure out the steps needed to solve a problem because the solutions manual would skip a few steps that were considered "easy" because we had learned them in a previous chapter. This especially became true in the later sections of the textbook. Considering I wasn't able to show up to class for more than 30 minutes each day for the last

month of the class and I was still able to pass, I would say that the textbook is quite helpful in figuring out how to solve the given problems.

As a person who has always been “math challenged” this book was not an easy read. It would have been more helpful if it included more examples broken down in an easy to understand step-by-step manner. What really bugged me was when there would be a problem at the bottom of one page and all the explanations of how to solve it were on the next page. As far as the preferred version goes, the printed book worked better for me. I didn’t really think any specific chapters were better or worse.

The textbook is very thorough and interesting. I especially liked reading the sections that dealt with the history of a formula/concept and the connections to practical applications. I read everything in the order it was written (on disc) for the first half of the course, but as we went on, I found it more helpful to see the diagrams/graphs/examples first, and then do a handful of problems on my own before I read the text explanations. Maybe for some students it is easier to read all of the text first as though someone is explaining it before practicing the problems, but the opposite was true for me, especially as the concepts became more complex. At first I was suspicious of a textbook on disc but I really liked using the CD (and/or the two places online!); most often it made it really easy for me to do my homework wherever I was.

I liked the text, although I’ll admit that I didn’t look at it much after the first couple of sections, because (my instructor) did a great job of explaining everything. In the sections that I did look at, I felt there were plenty of examples to complete the homework problems. At first I thought I’d love the CD version, since I’m a computer nut, but I quickly discovered that it became tiresome to sit at the computer to do my homework, especially since we had Optimath assignments as well (I don’t have a laptop). I ended up buying the printed exercises which made it easier to do the exercises at a desk, while sitting on the couch, etc. I would then refer to my class notes if I needed help while doing the homework. If I had needed to use the textbook more, I’m sure I would have ended up buying the printed version of it also.

I like that the text book was on CD because I could have it with me at all times and I didn’t have to lug around an extra book. I thought it was easy to read. if I needed help on a certain part in a chapter I could just print that part out instead of having the whole textbook with me. I think that the word problems could be explain more. I think they are kind of tricky.

I found that the CD was difficult to use. It’s hard to look at screen for the amount of time it takes to finish a math assignment. I bought the printed version and though it was much easier to use.

I didn’t use the printed textbook this semester, but I did use the online textbook. I preferred the CD and online version because the printed version is so big and it was too much trouble to pull out just the chapters we were working on, one at a time. We went too fast for that. I found it pretty user friendly, although, there were some places where it wasn’t as fluent as it could have been. For instance, it would start to give some explanation about the problems in the chapter, refer back to some narrative, and then pick up again

on the explanation. Also, in the later chapters with graphing, it asked you to draw, label and scale a graph before you knew what it was supposed to look like - how big or small the graph needed to be. The book was generally pretty good about giving enough information to do the homework, although I generally relied on the lectures and my notes. If I still had trouble, I reviewed the book and the Solutions manual. The Solutions manual is very well written - very clear - and easy to read and understand.

I found the text book hard to understand, but all math text books are hard for me to understand. ( i learn better by watching it be done then reading about how it is suppose to be don. I thought that the book need to have more information on how to complete the homework problems, i found myself relying on my notes from class, that had examples in them to solve the problems. I never once used my CD, so i would have to say i liked the book better.

I found the textbook very professional, and somewhat to read. However, I didn't like the CD version as much as the way it was provided online, because the CD seemed a little unorganized as far as trying to skip to a certain chapter; and it was difficult since it had to close the current window in order to open the next section. Whereas the online version you could easily skip ahead to the next section without any confusion whatsoever. I also didn't like how the textbook was arranged in two columns on one page, it made it a little difficult to read. For example, if a problem was towards the bottom of the page and it went on to the next page, I would often look for the second half on the next page, where instead it was at the top of the same page. If I had to read the problem over again, I would have to scroll back down to read the whole thing, whereas if it continued on the next page, scrolling wouldn't be necessary.

I found the textbook very easy to read and understandable. I almost exclusively used the online version instead of the CD version, but I assume they are identical in their content. Besides of a few minor errors already pointed out in class, the textbook had no issues. I did not have the printed version so I cannot comment on comparing them. I did enjoy having a clean and to-the-point custom made textbook that was straight to the point and didn't include the fluff that other textbooks includes. Of course, it was also nice not having to carrying a bulky textbook around, and even nicer that I didn't have to pay for one.

First off, receiving a free book saved me a months worth of gas money. Thank you! I thought the book was definitely easy to follow. For someone who was unable to be in class as much as Id liked to, the book did a good job of walking me through without the instruction from a teacher. I definitely prefer the cd version over lugging a 150 dollar book around with me. It clears up workspace on my desk as well. I honestly cant' think of any immediate changes I would make to it.

I actually really enjoyed having the text on CD. It was a really innovative way to solve a big problem for some of the math students. Personally, I found the CD really easy to use very self explanatory and I liked this better than the printed version because it weighed virtually nothing to tote around with you yet where ever there was a computer you could have immediate access to your text. Let alone I found it faster to get to where you wanted to go just click chapter 8 section two instead of having to flip through hundreds of pages until you got there. this is the fifth time I have taken Math 120 and I think that the text on

CD really helped me get through it this time. I found the language in the text very easy to understand and if not there were adequate examples to support the text so you would then understand.

The Textbook was very helpful and the fact that it was free and available was great from day one. It helped me alot. When i would get stuck the solutions page was a big help to look over the steps and see where my mistake was made.I used the cd at first but eventually i just used the website from the homework page on blackboard. The chapters varied from hard to easy i think it depended on how much we were able to do in class so i had examples to look at but the solutions page was helpful when you werent sure so you can see oh iam suppose to do that.

I wasn't sure how an online textbook would work but I was very surprised. I had no trouble with it at all except when my computer wouldn't read the disc for a day. I thought it was easy to read and easy to find examples of problems. I liked the disc version because we didn't have to carry a heavy textbook around but at the same time when my computer didn't read the disc it was really annoying not having a textbook. So I have mixed feelings about it. I thought that every chapter did a great job of explaining problems and there were examples of each problem and the definitions helped as well.

I felt that the Text book was good as far as the material provided and the way that they went about things. The only problem that I ran into was having to print in out every time that I went to do the assignment because I can't focus if I am doing math on the computer. I could have purchased the printed version but didn't think about it until half way through. Other than that I thought that it was very well written, detailed and good text book overall.

Well, I never actually read the book. I looked at it a couple times and I read part of a section in order to help a friend who was a section or two ahead of us. When I read that section, the text did provide enough information to where I was able to accurately explain the lesson to her. I like the cd because it wasn't a big heavy text to pack around, but at the same time it is nice having the printed version so you can do your homework when you aren't in the vicinity of a computer. As far as the last question, I can't help you because as I said earlier, I didn't read it.

I thought the book was easy to read, but not explicit. Sometimes the info from the text book wasn't enough to understand the homework. I preferred the printed version because staring at the computer gave me headaches, plus it's easier to look back thru pages rather than scrolling back on the computer. Some chapters were easier than others, for example I noticed that the chapters where there wasn't a lot of graphing involved, the text got more in depth with the lesson.

I did feel that the textbook was easy to read (for a math text). Sometimes the techniques used in class were slightly different than those used in the book and that could be confusing, but that only happened 1-2 times. I think that the examples provided in the book were not always helpful for the problems that were given as homework assignments. There would be problems assigned that were not thoroughly explained in the text. An example would be given, but then in the hw a problem would be given to us that required knowledge of that example but then there would be a twist to that problem that had not been explained in the

text beforehand. I noticed that in the later chapters of the text, homework answers would not be as detailed as they were in earlier chapters. I am not good at math and I find it difficult to 1. retain a concept once we have moved on from it in class. 2. look at a complex problem and know where to start. I appreciate that it is assumed that the topic has been learned already but it makes it difficult for those of us who depend on the answer key to check our work. How do I know I am doing it correctly? I think that if the book remains available online and we are able to purchase a hard copy in the bookstore, there is no need for a cd version to be given out to the students. I honestly did not use my cd even once. I do not even know where it is currently. I did end up printing out most of the material myself so that I could work on it anywhere and I was not bound to a computer to do my homework. Chapter 5 was very difficult for me. I feel like I really lost my footing in the class as a whole during that chapter. It seemed like a lot of difficult material was covered in a short amount of time and I think that the book could have delved into more detail during those chapters.

Second..the textbook was fine for me I found it easy to follow, but I think maybe a few more examples might be helpful along with a short review as it progresses because as for me I tend to forget rather easily what I had learned earlier in the semester.

The text book was very time consuming to print out each week. It would have been nice if it was available at the bookstore. I did however find the text very easy to read and it went right along with each weeks lesson. I did notice that chapter 8.3 was taught a little different in class than how the book explained. Some of the answers to check in the back were worked out a little different than we were taught. I enjoyed math 120 a lot and would recommend it to anyone.

I thought the text book on the cd was, a little hard for me to read. See on a computer scrolling up and down to read the pages is hard for my mind. Unlike a book where you can flip back to the page you need to read, the computer is just so tempermental and my mind can't stay focused on the screen very long, so all semester i've had to come to the library and pay to print all of my exercises and reading so that i can understand what i'm doing. other than that i loved that he book was free it helped me save some money so thanks for that!, dori

I find it difficult to use the CD version mainly because I need to highlight some areas for future reference. On the other hand, being able to print out a chapter at a time is totally convenient and keeps one from having to lug a huge text around. Most of the book I was able to grasp, that is what I could clearly understand, but I found that some of the exercises were not explained thoroughly in the text which made doing the homework difficult at times. However, on most occasions I could find another problem similar in form to guide me. This usually worked, but in some instances the solution didn't included every step so I would be left wondering how the next step was reached. Sorry, I don't remember what chapter or chapters. I would suggest that the solutions have each step regardless of how unnecessary they may seem because it would lead to a greater understanding. Other than those areas I found the book more than adequate and as good if not better than most math books I've studied.

I really found the text book for this class to be extremely innovative. I really found it thoughtful of the instructors to write the text so we as students did not have to pay an arm

and leg in book costs. I found the book to be very complete, and covered all material that we covered in class. The only part of the book that I was not completely satisfied with is having to be in constant contact with a computer. This is strictly due to all of the time I already spend on a computer. However I also highly appreciate being able to purchase a printed version of the text, and also being able to print sections ahead of time, to eliminate some of the computer contact. I do however much prefer the text in this manner, rather than have to pay the costs of purchasing a book. Overall I really liked the text, and found it extremely easy to follow, and understand.

I found the textbook quite helpfull. The economic advantage over a standard text was enough to make it worth my while altogether. The only section that was troubling was the one on logarithims, specificaly 8.6. I'm sure its just because there is so much new information to digest that it would be hard to understand no matter how you wrote it, but that was the only section of the book that gave me trouble.

I thought that the textbook was pretty good. I didn't care for the cd version but I thought that it was great that it could be printed off and purchased inexpensively. I liked that the book used practical applications of math and formulas that someone might not see have a use in everyday life. Chapter eight did a good job of explaining the relationship of calculating interest on investments or population change using formulas but it was kind of hard to understand the reason used to derive the formulas. This could be because logarithms are a hard concept to unerstand. I was hoping that the book would do it as clearly as the other chapters.

While taking Math 120, I found both the CD and printed versions to be very useful. The CD was especially useful because of its convenience to carry around, and for the fact it was given to me free (Thanks Mr. Arnold!). I bought the printed version because I could use it when access to a computer was limited. In addition, it was a resourceful tool when attending class. I would take the present section(s) we were to discuss in class with me. It was easier to following along with the lectures in class when I had the printed version in front of me. On the CD, all chapters and sections were very well organized and thorough. I never had a problem with either CD or printed version. I would highly recommend both CD and Printed Version for future Math 120 enthusiasts.

I liked working with the textbook, except I'm a solution manual nut! I know that a solution manual was not made because it would prevent people from cheating but I cant help but wonder how much easier homework would have been if I could have seen a couple of problems worked out. Although some students do cheat I find it comforting to see a couple problems worked out so I can refer to them when I get stuck. Sometimes I just need help in the beginning of a problem and then I am able to work the rest out by myself.I did prefer the printed version because I have a hard time focusing on math homework on the computer. I suppose if I had a lap top that might have made it easier but that is not really an option for me. I also prefer a printed version because I like to refer to the textbook during a lecture. The logarithm chapters were excellent and the examples were easy to understand even if you were to miss class. I also enjoyed chapter four and found it to be my favorite chapter. The Quadratic formula was very well explained. Chapter five was good and I found the ac method to be a valuable tool that I learned this semester. Although I still have difficulty

with motion and word problems. Overall I found the textbook to be very well written and easy to understand.

I thought the textbook was excellent but there is one thing I would suggest for change. There should be more examples of problems (in every form a problem of that kind could come in). Sometimes there would be a problem in the book that had a certain twist to it that wasn't covered in the text. I didn't mind the CD version because I could have the chapter window and the homework window up at the same time.

I loved the text on a CD format. It saved me a lot of money and having the exercise sections along with the solutions sections made it a lot easier to check and correct my homework. I would suggest a little more discussion when it comes to word problems as they have always been difficult for me.

The text book was great especially the price. Reading the text was good and very easy to read but for me I would like seeing more detail in all the examples worked out without any steps missing (dummy proof). I like the choice of being able to print the text one section at a time making it easier to carry and making it easy to write all over.

I had some difficulty understanding the math text book. In the reading before the exercises, it said refer to example #10, etc. and I couldn't find them. Overall CR has done an excellent job with the book and CDs, and making them cheap for students. Also I would like to say the movie clips help me out a lot. Personal Preference: I like the online version better.

I found the textbook fairly easy to read, and the examples in the textbook covered the homework. The CD version worked well enough; however, sometimes for homework it is easier to print out than to keep scrolling. As expensive as books are, it was really nice to have the entire book on CD for free. I thought all of the chapters were pretty consistent in the amount of information given. I liked the highlighted boxes in each chapter that summarized the steps. Also, the textbook was consistent with the lesson taught in class so that I didn't get home and open book and it look like a foreign language to me. I think that was most useful.

I found that it was easy to understand. The way that it was written made me feel like it was easier for me. It provided enough information for me to get by on my homework assignments. I personally didn't have the text in any other form than the CD. I really didn't like the CD version because it makes homework extremely uncomfortable and motivates me to not do my homework as much as I usually would like to. Towards the end of the semester I began getting used to using the CD version instead of usual text book

The text book on CD I wish all the math classes had it...it made my expenses for books go way down just without buying the Math book which is always the most expensive. Thanks sooooo much for this and I highly encourage you guys to continue this and maybe you will lower the initial prices of the math text book.

I very much appreciated the free text as many of my other classes had very expensive books, it was a nice change. The textbook was very clear and concise however I noticed a few misspellings earlier on, as this is a math class the misspellings did not render the text incomprehensible. The part of the texts that was most helpful to me were the examples,

you included quite a few helpful ones, and I appreciated the step by step walkthroughs which is great because I personally learn by seeing.

I thought the textbook was very helpful, many times it was all I had to learn from this semester due to various circumstances. There were times when I felt it was not in depth enough, certain problems that I would find on the quizzes or exams would be more in depth than that which I would find in the reading. Moreover they seemed more evolved (the ones on the exams) in the sense that they would employ multiple properties in a single equation. I don't know if that is intentionally done to make things harder but it was frustrating to me, or maybe even for the simple fact that they text book can only cover so much. I liked the opportunity to not have to purchase it a great deal, although I prefer to have a printed copy. The format was easy to follow for the most part with the exception of one thing. I notice that you teach some of the factoring techniques backwards and then forwards. For me, since I have never been good at factoring and for the second time in my life missed the lecture on this part of the class, I found this very confusing. I get that it's important to fully understand the material and that maybe if you don't teach it that way no one is going to spend the time learning it, but it's confusing.

I found the textbook user friendly. It was easy to understand and gave a sufficient amount of examples. It was helpful how every few ideas had a review in the blue boxes. It is very convenient to have the text on CD, not to mention cost effective! I did however, find that I needed to print out the homework pages. It was difficult for me to go back and forth between the paper and the computer screen. It is nice to have the option.

The CD version is way better than any text book. The notes were clear and easy to follow. I also liked how the solutions were given to each question.

i thought that the text book was harder to deal with then a regular book only because i lost my CD at the beginning of the semester and now i dont have it to finish my last assignment. it was easy to read and easy to understand but it was hard checking my answers and trying to get help from the back of the book.

I mainly worked using the cd version of the textbook; however, I found that I had an easier time printing the pages out than viewing information through Adobe Acrobat. The text itself supplemented the class well and the homework helped me to fully understand the concepts presented. I didnt feel it lacked examples or explanations.

It could use some harder example problems, to show how to solve the harder types of homework problems. The answers page could show the ending steps of a few problems.

The only time I really opened the book was for the homework. A few times I tried to go back and look at the chapters instructions and found it to be a bit confusing. They werent easy to follow, what makes it easier is if the problems were explained then shown worked out in its entirety, rather than broken down and explained after each step. But we all got through it! Thanks.

Overall a good book! However, there were a few chapters that did not seem to provide enough examples to understand what the homework was asking of us or to know how to solve the homework problems w/out instruction. Chp 8.4 - couldnt do homework after reading chapter. Chp 9 not enough examples!

I tried go use the CD version rather than buying the book. I found it to be a very huge hassle to try and work from a computer. Books are my preference, but as far as the instructions and language used in the book I found it very helpful, clear, understandable and easy to read. Next time tho Ill get the book.

The textbook was fine, I appreciated the low cost. Although, when I purchased a book for past semesters it came with a video tutor this was so helpful and I would suggest that the Math Department make a video similar to this to accompany the book.

The book looked very ghetto! Huge binder is hard to carry around. The material was good!! The even and odd #s should be alike so when you dont get the even #, you try the odd, and check the answer to see if youre doing it right.

I found the numbering of examples and illustrations very confusing. The words were used interchangeable. I purchased the printed coy, but was grateful for the solutions pg. on the CD.

I preferred the printed copy, I tried to use the CD to start but it was way too difficult to not copy things down incorrectly. I didnt read it too much as Aaron explained it so well in class but when I was absent and needed to figure it out on my own it was pretty easy to understand.

I preferred the printed version of the textbook. I thought that it provided enough information to do the exercises and I liked that it gave examples on how to do each problem step by step.

A bound book w/less margins would be useful if not to expensive... \$70-100. The binder is way too big. Perhaps a local printer can accomplish this. Otherwise laid out fine.

I used file printed version and thought it was pretty well done only one suggestion is more difficult examples. I felt the examples were for the simplest equations.

More step by step solving, never used CD once book was a little too big.

“Store bought” textbooks provide more and different choices (via internet connection to support to supportive website) for understanding material - CR textbook rely on what was taught in class and homework only. - relied on CD mostly and other websites to study - parts of the text explained things in a way that was more difficult to understand than what was presented in class - so not so easy to read and study.

## 2 Online Testing

**Please make comments on OPTIMATH, the online testing system, so that we can make it a better experience for the students taking Math 120 next semester. For example: Did you find the online testing beneficial? Did the system work well for you? Did you prefer the online assignments or the written assignments? Any suggestions on how to make the system better? etc.**

OPTIMATH was a good testing system, and the online assignments were good practice. The written assignments were also very beneficial because they'll have specific notes on the problems I got wrong, so I know exactly how I committed an error.

Once I was able to log on correctly (my problem), I found the practice tests to be extremely helpful! As soon as I was done with a section (I would do the written assignment and practice problems all from the book at home), I would then come into school and practice with Optimath until I got all of them right (10/10). I think the syntax stuff was a little difficult for me to get right but as long as I could figure out the right way to write out an answer on the practice tests it was OK.

I found the optimath system to be a very good system once I became familiar with it. I think it might be beneficial to have some kind of an optional training for it in the library at the various campuses to initially show people how to use it. I preferred the online assignments to the written assignments, however I would like to see a better breakdown of the problems in the answer section after you complete an online assignment.

I liked the online testing. It helped me get use to the way the website needed the answers written. On the pretest I would use them for practice and how to word the answers. I did not have any problems with the testing site. I liked being able to take the test as long as I wanted to. I usually did the assignments while I was doing the exercises in the back of each chapter. But they were both beneficial to me learning the material.

I'm not sure how to make it better, but what frustrated me was i would write the answer out on paper and then try to input it into the computer and i would acciedently put in another sign like - and not catch it until it was to late. It may be nice to turn in a copy of our work so we could at least get partical credit. Secondly, i felt that the questions were different form the text and the online testing site, i was confused several times on what was being asked of my work. I preferred the online assignments because they were more similar to the tests.

The Optimath system seemed to work very well, it is much less intimidating than a room full of others taking a test. For someone like me working full time as well, it was nice to be able to schedule my testing around my work schedule. It I believe really was helpful in encouraging me to real learn the material, do to the fact that I could repeat the exams and pre-tests. I found that I would find the areas of the unit where I was having trouble, and then concentrated on the solutions of those areas for a better understanding. I was frustrated by the alternate types of questions that it gave, however it really worked to press the importance of knowing the operations, not just one particular problem type. I think that the written assignments could be rolled into the online format as well. Instead of written assignments, you could give a set of questions which could be answered and written out using Optimath syntax.

I found optimath very beneficial and wished we had a few more optimath test throughout the semester. It pointed out the weak areas and taught how to write everything clearly and carefully, for it could easily be written wrong making the whole problem wrong. They were good practice. It was a warning on what might be on the test and how a problem might be presented. Here again, the solutions could have had more steps on the process of how to receive the correct answer. It seemed like some big steps were skipped for the sake of space. I felt the system was satisfactory and served its purpose. In my opinion, I felt that optimath was just as important as the written assignments and quizzes given in class. I hope these

comments were helpful in deciding on what to do in the future. The book and optimath benefited me greatly in learning the information.

Although I did find the online testing beneficial, I found the experience to be a little frustrating at first, and am thankful there were only a few problems in each test. I do prefer the written assignments, if I had to choose, but I liked the opportunity to experience both. I'm not really sure if I can explain why I felt frustrated at first, other than the actual entering of the answers in this certain exact way seemed tedious. But that's just me.

The online math system was good except for trying to figure out how input the right form of the answer. Maybe it would be better if they were multiple choice and had more questions assigned in order to rule out the guess factor. I liked that you could go through and practice any section and also see the solutions to learn it better. It was beneficial. I think I preferred the online assignments.

Personally I didn't really like OPTIMATH very much. It felt like it was a waste of my time and effort, and considering how lazy I am that can really detract from my class output. I talked to a number of people that were missing problem after problem because of the specific forms that we had to input our answers into. If we wanted an online class we would have taken one. Personally I didn't have too much of a problem with it, but it just seemed out of my sphere of learning. I mean when I am spending so much time in class doing in class stuff I forget to do the out of class online assignments. I think I even missed one. I like the idea of what OPTIMATH does, but it was just difficult for me to get very in tune with it. Not to mention, there is nothing like having the right answer and then getting marked wrong because you didn't put it in correctly and finally after trying the little online homework quizzes 20 times before getting all the same answers.

Optimath was a good experience for me. I liked the instant feedback and the ability to repeat assignments as many times as desired. The one thing I didn't like though, I forgot to do one quiz and didn't realize it because once the date had expired it wasn't even listed anymore. There also were a few times where I had the right answers but it wouldn't accept how I had entered it, that was frustrating. Because of this I would usually go through a quiz without taking it, submit it for a zero grade, and print it out to check how answers were accepted. If I had to choose between online or written, I would choose online. I think overall the system is working quite well.

I really liked the OPTIMATH. Being able to go back to a section (or approach it for the first time) and do as many problems as I wanted/needed to was incredibly helpful. I liked the way I could see the solutions to the problems I missed- going through the corrections was like double practice. Something happens with written assignments that I really like too- I get feedback from my instructor and I to keep a tangible copy to look back on (it also makes me aware of making my work more neat :). The combination of OPTIMATH and written work was really perfect for me this semester.

I found Optimath very beneficial. The system worked well, although I did find one bug, which I told (my instructor) about. I think it involved parentheses and negative signs, but it's no biggie. I really like the fact that you get instant feedback, including a complete explanation of the answers. The fact that I could do the exercises as many times as I

needed, as well as being able to do them again later, was great for test preparation. I think the Optimath system is fine as it is; I found the combination of written and Optimath assignments very beneficial. Result: I'm getting an A in the class (I just hope I don't blow it on the final!)

Optimath could be better if you could find an easier way to insert the equation into the system. sometimes when you rounded your answers it would say the problem was wrong.it would be better if Optimath was all multiple choice. you can still have hard problems, but we could solve them out on paper and choose the answer that fits what we get. OPTimath didn't show you how to insert an answer if you where going to answer in the quadratic formula. I preferred the written homework because it wasn't so frustrating.

I really did not like Optimath. I found it hard to understand what it wanted when it came to typing in the answer. I also could not use it because it was compatible with Mac. computers. It was a help for practicing, but I wouldn't use it again.

Once I got use to the Optimath I enjoyed working with it. The syntax we needed to use wasn't always clear, and often took a bit of experimenting with. I found I could have the right answer, but not in a format that Optimath recognized, so it marked the answer wrong. Then I would have to review the solutions and re-do the assignment.. I did like the variety of problems it gave and the way we could do it over and over again for practice and feedback. I especially liked the review and practice exercises. They were really helpful for studying and having a variety of problems to work on. I also liked the fact that it graded the assignment and gave you the results right away. I think, overall, it is a good addition to the assignments. I hope it's available next semester for Math 5. It's a good study tool.

It was very discouraging, a "Buggy" program and honestly, NOT NEEDED. Math homework on paper is fine for me. All the work is done on paper anyway, so why input the answer into a computer?? Those extra 10 problems took much longer to do than the paper homework and trying over and over again to input the answer in a way the program would understand was frustrating. It felt very useless and I can't understand why the math department thought it was a good idea to require it. I will NOT take Math120 again unless I can be sure that my instructor doesn't use Optimath. In fact if you have the time, I would really appreciate any input on that. If I took the class in summer, for example, are there any sections that don't include Optimath as a part of Math 120? I assume - or at least I sincerely hope - that its use is at the instructor's discretion. My suggestion if you need to keep optimath is better programming; it really needs to be more intuitive so in reading the student answers. I'd often get the right answer but the weird language the system needed to read meant I'd have to do it over.. and over... and over again. I'm sure those bugs can get worked out.

I really loved optimath b/c it gave me lots of practice with a bunch of different problems, but i found it time consuming/ frustrating trying to get all the right ways to write the problem correctly in optimath. I would prefer to do complex problems on paper then trying to type in all the (\*) () sqrt stuff.

I preferred the optimath assignments over written homework, I liked them because I could get instant feedback automatically when I was completed with the assignment to figure out what I did wrong. I also liked how we could take any assignment over until we received

the grade we were happy with. To improve it, I think late optimath assignments should be allowed with partial credit; that would have helped me out on a few assignments when I was unable to access a computer with internet. Also, I think it should provide more specific examples when using syntax. It should give a sample problem perhaps using all variables, with the answer in the same variables, or using the same type of problem with different numbers. There were a couple of times where I had the correct answer, but it was in the wrong form that optimath was looking for; this was because the syntax example was too vague by giving just a fraction when I needed to know how to use the square root symbol. I had to get a lot of them wrong in order to figure out that it wanted me to use "sqrt(x)."

I have mixed feelings about OPTIMATH. I liked the benefits of not as doing as much written homework in exchange for doing OPTIMATH, but in the end I used up about the same amount of paper because of using scratch paper to solve problems for OPTIMATH. Throughout the semester I was frustrated by trying to correctly type in answers in proper syntax that sometimes was confusing. For instance, I would often mistakingly put in something like  $7x-2$  as the answer, but then get it marked wrong because OPTIMATH wanted it formatted  $7*x-2$ . Personally, I would like to see OPTIMATH used for multiple choice questions only (such as most graph questions) and not for questions that you have to input an answer.

Optimath was great. By being able to take the quizzes as many times as I liked I was able to get the math down. For the most part, I'd go as many times as it took to get 100 percent. I liked having a combination of online quizzes and take home exams. I'm sure you guys hate to hear this but the system you guys have made me wonder if I needed a classroom or a teacher. As long as someone is dedicated they can learn the math with the CR math departments setup.

Optimath... I find it to be a burden as well as a benefit. I like that for whoever you are personally you can find the time that works best for you during your day to take a quiz like if you know you think better in the mornings take it then or if you are a night owl you can also take it at night. I also like that you can take the quizzes as many times as you like to get the grade you want. very cool. What I don't like about optimath is I don't know about everyone else but optimath crashed on me a few times while taking quizzes to where I would have to close out and get back in and start all the way over again. That was a little annoying but my only gripe.

Optimath I didn't really like dealing with. I liked the examples under the answer box showing how to type the answer correctly with signs but it confused me in a way as well. For example last quiz I had an answer with cube root and the only example it showed was sqrt so I didn't know how to write the cube root so I got the problem wrong the correct way to do it was to show my answer raised to  $1/3$  and there were no examples like that so I was confused. I don't like how you have to write answer certain way to get points I got many wrong because I didn't type it correctly. That made me mad with optimath. But it's good for practice quizzes and things I just prefer to show my work and my answer on paper so I don't have to worry about how I type it.

I really liked OPTIMATH. I had never done any kind of online testing before but being able to do quizzes over again was a real lifesaver! With this tool of being able to do quizzes

over and over I definitely liked the online testing more. It also made me get out my notes and take better ones. The only downside was that I was confused a few times as to how we were supposed to type in answers so maybe work a bit on that but otherwise I found online testing to be a good experience.

I really like that we did the quiz' online and that you were given multiple attempts at them. It really takes off the stress of the in class quiz. Although I didn't do the greatest on the quiz' anyways I would have done worse if they were in class. I thought it was beneficial because you could print out your results to keep and study from for the next test. I definitely prefer the online assignments vs the written assignments. And I cannot think of any suggestions on how to make it better. I think that the way you teach and give quiz', tests and homework is a very good method and helpful for students if math isn't the expertise.

Did I find it beneficial? Kind of. It was nice because you could go back and fix it (redo it) if you made a simple mistake. It takes the pressure off. On the other hand, you have to type it in exact or else it marks it as wrong. You may not know how to type it in. An example would be with the square root of something. It didn't show an example. It just expected us to know how to type it in. I had to redo a quiz several times because of that...it was very frustrating. It did work well other than the typing it in part. Personally, I think I would prefer to just do it on paper. That way you don't have to worry about typing it in wrong even if you got the work right. So, yeah, I prefer written assignments all the way. Suggestions on how to make it better, I don't know.

Yes, I loved the optimath testing, I like that it showed you where you went wrong on your problems and then you were able to retake them. I thought the system worked well for me, if I needed help I just clicked on the HELP option and most of my questions were answered thru there. I liked the written assignments because I could take my time to write every step down. With the optimath I felt rushed b/c I knew I was being timed. Overall I think the optimath system is great.

I did have problems with the Optimath quizzes. I had a hard time figuring out the syntax. I would often get frustrated b/c an answer I gave would have been correct if I had written it out by hand but b/c of a syntax error I was marked incorrect. I didn't do as well as I know I am capable of on some of the quizzes I took b/c I simply became frustrated and gave up. I did like the freedom of being able to take the quiz at my leisure. It is convenient. Overall I prefer being able to print something out and work on it anywhere any time, rather than having to find a computer to work at. I found it infinitely invaluable to be able to look up my assignments online as well as access my grades from the computer. That I think really helps busy students out.

Glad to help..first I'd like to say a few things about optimath along with what others have said that are not in our class..I think the format is difficult to use and I know how difficult it is to program formats but the thing I found most frustrating was making mistakes such as not using enough or any (.), also with \*. Either I did not use enough or at all, but the numbers were correct..in fact I know I pointed this out to you once and it turned out to be my error but there have been other times this has happened and I choose to redo the quiz in order to get the points. Others say they prefer to have in class quizzes because they find opti-math to be too confusing due to various reasons, that I don't know what the reasons

may be, but thought I'd pass that along to you. I on the other hand loved them especially the instant gratification of getting the answers right away. Also the extra practice..I think my average of doing a quiz is 8 to 9 times before I get all the points but that's because I need every point I can get!)

I like the online testing a lot I was something you could do at your own pace and as many times as you would like. Although sometimes it was a little frustrating to have taken a quiz 5 times and not improve. One of the things I did not like about the Optimath was that I would enter the correct answer but in a different order than the computer wanted and I would get the problem wrong. A teacher could see that I was doing it right where as a computer is only looking for the answer one way. I do prefer the online assignments over the written ones. I feel like the online assignments fit better into my busy life.

The online testing was pretty good, it was a good opportunity to study for the big exam in class ahead of time, and it helped get a review of all the section that need to be reviewed. The only thing about the online testing is entering in the answers, if I were to hand write the problem out I would get them right, but the answer thing is hard, a lot of the times I had the right answer it just wasn't entered right into the system. All and all the online testing was very beneficial and I liked that you could take it as many times as needed to understand the material, dori

Probably the one thing that helped when it came to the Optimath is its game like setup. Whenever I finished and didn't receive a perfect score I was inclined to keep taking the quiz until I got them all. Often the problem was not necessarily a wrong answer, but how I had input the answer. So I would end up taking the quiz time and time again, then checking my answers with the solutions. Being able to look at your mistakes right after I had taken the quiz was helpful to my overall understanding of the topic. Too bad they didn't have that in the math classes that I have failed. Overall, I like being able to work a problem through to the end and compare my answers to Optimath's.

This was the first semester I used Optimath and it took a little to get used to. The second to last quiz of the semester was extremely hard when it came to syntax, so I was not completely fond of Optimath during that point in time. Overall though I found the benefits of Optimath to be very beneficial, and a great review and refresher for quizzes since you can take the quiz as many times as you need to, and with each take you are given the answers, to jog your memory of how to compute the problem. I preferred the online testing compared to the in class testing as I feel that it cemented how to do certain programs in my mind. I would prefer to do all of my exams online if given with the same constraints. I really would not want to see anything changed on Optimath as I feel that it is working very well the way it is.

As for the online testing, I found it mostly user friendly. The only problems I had with it were getting used to the proper notation. Maybe an in-class primer to Optimath notation would help. You may have even done it and I was spacing out or something. I thought the online assignments were a useful addition to our written assignments because the Optimath tests added an element of pressure that sorted out what I knew well and what still needed clarification.

I liked OPTIMATH. It was nice to take a quiz without being under the constraints of time. I felt like I learned while I was taking the quiz because I knew what I had to look up and refer to in the book for the exam. I did have a few problems logging into OPTIMATH. I don't really know what someone would do if they didn't have access to a computer. It might have been nice to be given the option of how to take the quiz. Perhaps having a quiz available to take at the classroom meeting would have been a beneficial alternative. Or maybe giving the quiz during class and offering OPTIMATH as an alternative to improve your grade. I am glad that notification for an OPTIMATH assignment was not given solely by blackboard because that would have made OPTIMATH very difficult.

Using the online testing system, OPTIMATH, was never really a problem for me. However, it is easy to disrupt your quiz by pressing the "back/forward" key on the toolbar (This will log you out automatically). And you will not have known until you finish your quiz. In consequence, you will need to redo your quiz because it will remain active. I prefer taking the quiz online instead of on paper. The written assignments are great for homework. Overall, all the tools and resources used for Math 120 are exceptional and beneficial in my opinion. There is nothing that I would change.

I hate to say it but Optimath is frustrating. The problems always seem so much harder to me for some reason. I would have to say that I preferred the written assignments rather than the online system. Maybe instead of having to type in answers you could make it all multiple choice? And that way a student could just choose an answer. The online test were beneficial because they provided practice but we never discussed them or went over them in class. So in a way they were unbeneficial. Most students are less inclined to do an assignment if they have to go out of their way to do it on a computer. I would much rather just do written assignments. Perhaps there could be a way in which we could print out the test with our answers then we could bring it to class.

One thing I really disliked about optimath was that there were symbols in the problem that I didn't know the meaning of-and there wasn't a key anywhere that I could easily find. I would suggest that the problem be stated algebraically and also written out(or have a key easily available). I did, however really like the fact that we could test ourselves as many times as we needed and the answers were available at the end of each testing.

Optimath is an awesome testing system, you can take the quizzes at your own pace and after you have finished, you can review the problems and see what you did wrong and how to do it right. Best of all, you can re-take the quizzes to get a higher score, which in return makes you get more practice in doing them. I liked the combination of the online and the written assignments. The online is great, you don't waste paper, and you can do it at your own leisure (within deadlines). And as far as written assignments. I feel that when you physically put the pencil to paper, the mind seems to retain more.

As for making the system better, more math movies!!! It's a great way to get the extra "tutoring" if needed at any hour of the night (or day).

Optimath was great. This helped me in understanding the problems that I missed. Beening able to keep redoing to get it in you head was great. I would of liked all the homework assignments to be that was as well. It was easier for me to understand when I

could go back on my own time and take as much time as I needed to rework problems that I wasn't getting by seeing what I had did wrong. One thing that would be great would be if you could interact with the program that those videos you sent out. Something showing you right were you went wrong or what step you missed.

Helpful... but confusing. It needs to be more user friendly for example, a lot of times I would have the right answer but make a typo. It made things very frustrating. I think the optimath tests made the written assignments easier because of the extra practice. I love the fact that you gave us like a week to turn them in. Overall in my opinion math120 was very educational and you are a very good teacher, Dave

I really liked the online quizzes. I could do them at home with a cup of coffee and without the pressure of the classroom. Also, the online quizzes let you take as long as you need which isn't possible in class. Although I like the online assignments, the written homework assignments are good so that you have a good record of work done. Not all of the little problems get put into resource book, so the homework assignments are a good way to glance at everything because sometimes there are even things on homework that we didn't have a chance to get in our notes in class. The only frustration I had with OPTIMATH was that sometimes the way things got entered would get you a wrong answer. For example, I didn't put in the correct number of parenthesis and I got an error message & sent to next problem. I would have rather it left me on the problem to try and correct instead of sending me to next problem.

I believe that the online testing system was very helpful. It makes it easier for me to be able to take a quiz when i feel ready to do so. The system seemed to work fine for me. The online assignments were easier for me to do even though i don't exactly like sitting at a computer for a long time. I think this system is very functional and beneficial for the students.

Another thing the opimath was a little hard at first but you guys worked out the bugs and it wrorks rather well. i really loved the way i could take the test as many times as i wanted. but what i dont like is that if you put a space or anyting nomater if the answer is write you get it wrong and i had the hardest time with that part lol. but all in all i like it. Good Job Math department. :)

I both like and dislike aspects of optimath, on average I think I have taken each test that has been put up around three times, this is good for some reasons, for one I wanted to improve my score and through retakeing the tests I really absorbed the material and was forced to reread the text. The part about optimath that I did'nt like was that many of the problems I missed were caused because I did not enter the answer in correctly in optimath format, which many times veries from homework format.Perhaps if there were a few sample questions and answers before the test began? Or maybe if alot of parenthesis are required in an answer there could be a tutorial included in the question.

I thought the Optimath was alright, I'm not really a big fan of online courses after trying one out this past semester, but I like the fact that we have unlimited tries on it so long as we choose we can do as well as we are willing to do. That much is encouraging to really spend some time with the material if you don't know it. I'm hoping it is only because I have never

been in a routine of doing school work before but I found it hard to keep track of, despite the fact that I spend a good portion of every day on the computer. I think that's a lack of focus though. I liked the videos a lot I encourage you to make more of them. Something about hearing the explanation while seeing the problem worked out, I think the fact that I am receiving information from two different mediums makes it that much more effective.

The Optimath program is great! The practice exercises were helpful. Having lots of time to do the quizzes and tests was extremely helpful to me. I suffer from test anxiety, and in class most things that I remember seem to disappear from my mind. Being able to print out the quizzes with the solutions really helped me do well on most of them. It made it easy to go over the correct way to do a problem that I missed, and try again. I often felt lost after leaving class. It was helpful to have these resources to go back to, like having a tutor at home.

I definitely preferred the online assignments. Optimath is a great study tool.

i hated the optimath system. it was inconvenient for me to have to get online to take a test. it is really hard for me to look at the screen for a long time and i couldnt do it anymore by the end of the lists of tests that i had to do. it interfered with my other homework that needed to be done once i had to take them or i just couldnt take them anymore because i would rather do other homework then get a low math score on something that i new was right but i just didnt know how to type it into the computer. i think that there should be an option between whether we want hard copies or on the computer and if everyone else doesnt need to pay because it is on the computer, the others who can work on the computer or cant get to one should have to pay for their books either.