

Technology Assignment – Write Out and Solve Equations in Excel

Solving a problem like the one in your project will take some time and a systematic approach. Below are some suggested steps to help you get started. With any luck and your intelligence, you'll be able to write out your system of equations after going through these steps. Then you can move on to solving the system of equations with Excel. There are two videos in the project folder to help you complete this task.

STEP 1: This may seem obvious, but read the letter carefully. Not just glance or skim through it...read it out loud. Does it make sense to you? Do you understand why we need to blend the ingredients?

STEP 2: Write down the information in the problem. Put in any values to customize the problem to you so the letters in the table don't overly complicate the problem. Do you understand what the units mean?

STEP 3: This is the most important step in writing your equations! To write down the equations, you need variables and you need to understand what the variables represent. Look through the letter and determine what it is that you need to find.

Write down the names of the variables and what they represent. Don't abbreviate...be as specific as possible. If you don't understand exactly what the letters represent, it will be extremely difficult to find relationships between the variables.

STEP 4: Hopefully, as you read the letter and worked out the steps above you noticed some relationships between the variables and the quantities from STEP 2. If so, write down equations based on the relationships.

If there are no obvious relationships, look for any numbers that represent totals. A number that is some type of total can be written as a sum of something. This sum should involve the variables you wrote down in STEP 3.

Once you have your equations written out, follow the steps in the videos in the project folder to solve them with Excel. Remember that you will turn in your Excel spreadsheet, so don't forget to save it. It would be helpful to me if you would also include the values for the constants you used to come up with your equations.