Landmark Teaching Principle™ #5

Provide Models

2-COLUMN NOTES

Modeling two-column notes helps students categorize topics into main ideas and details, words and definitions, steps and examples, etc. These mathematics notes include an example problem and steps written out that can be applied to other problems. In mathematics, models typically consist of model problems. Many times the math is done and then discussed but not written down. In this two-column note taking example, you will see that the language of the steps is also included, so that when students are using these notes, not only are the models there but the language to describe those models is included. When seeking help or looking back over the model problem, students have the same language that was used in class, so this language can be reinforced.

GIVE NOTES WITH EXAMPLES AND STEPS.

- When giving notes, have students work through a sample problem. Then, review the problem and have them help describe the general steps to solve it. Finally, ask students to document the steps using the two-column note format.

EXAMPLE NOTES on SOLVING EQUATIONS:

Topic: Solving Equations	
Main Idea / Steps	Details / Examples
Goal: To get "x" by itself. (x = #) Steps: 1) Add/subtract to combine like terms. 2) Divide by the coefficient of x.	* Use inverse operations. * Do the same thing to both sides. * Use the reverse order of operations. Example: $5x - 4 = 2x + 8$ $+4 \quad +4$ $5x = 2x + 12$ $-2x \quad -2x$ $\frac{3x}{3} = \frac{12}{3}$ $x = 4$

HOW DOES THIS PROVIDE MODELS?

- Students take notes that include both steps and examples, which they can review when attempting to complete similar problems.