

Learning Project 4

Algebra/Using Equations

Introduction

These Inquiry Activities take the learners to the next step of algebra, in which they solve an equation for x , which they should now understand is a variable. Their success in the last Learning Project should have built a common sense understanding of algebraic symbols and contexts to help them have confidence in approaching these next few problems.

This Learning Project introduces the learner to inverse operations (undoing one with another), used when isolating the unknown on one side of an equation. They also learn the importance of balancing out the two sides of an equation so that they remain equal, and breaking down complex algebraic sentences into smaller more manageable parts. The students can also expand their knowledge and use of the GED Casio calculator functions and practice the correct use of the standard grid.

Again, manage the negative reaction to algebra that you may find in some students, so that it does not contaminate the class. As in any problem we face in life, breaking it down into smaller steps, taking it one step at a time, with help, insight and humor from our friends and colleagues can make any problem workable and bring success. It is also true that it takes time to feel comfortable with unfamiliar concepts. Since there will be opportunities in later Learning Projects to reinforce the concepts that are discussed here, do not insist on complete comprehension before you move on to other things.

