

Formula Flip Lab

Rearrange equations to make the needed quantity stand alone.

HIGH SCHOOL • MA.912.AR.1.2

MA.912.AR.1.2 "Rearrange equations or formulas to isolate a quantity of interest."

NAME _____

DATE _____

ISOLATE THE TARGET

To isolate a quantity, use inverse operations to undo the operations around it. Do the same operation to both sides, and keep simplifying until the target variable is alone.

WORKED EXAMPLE

In $C = (5/9)(F - 32)$, isolate F .

1. Multiply both sides by $9/5$: $(9/5)C = F - 32$.
2. Add 32 to both sides: $(9/5)C + 32 = F$.
3. Write the isolated quantity first: $F = (9/5)C + 32$.

Answer: $F = (9/5)C + 32$

PRACTICE 6 problems

1 In $A = lw$, isolate w .

ANSWER _____

2 In $d = rt$, isolate r .

ANSWER _____

3 In $V = Bh/k$, isolate h .

ANSWER _____

4 In $P = 2l + 2w$, isolate w .

ANSWER _____

5 In $y = (x - a)/b$, isolate x .

ANSWER _____

6 In $q = 7p - 4$, isolate p .

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

- 1** A music app charges a one-time setup fee of \$18 plus \$6 for each month. The total charge is modeled by $T = 18 + 6m$. If the total charge is \$42, how many months did the subscription cover?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

- 2** A student club earns \$15 for each T-shirt sold and pays \$24 for supplies. Its profit is modeled by $E = 15s - 24$. If the profit is \$81, how many T-shirts were sold?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

CHALLENGE

The reciprocal of a device's total resistance R is modeled by $1/R = 1/x + 1/y$. Rearrange the equation to isolate x .

PART 1 · PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	In $A = lw$, isolate w .	$w = A/l$
2	In $d = rt$, isolate r .	$r = d/t$
3	In $V = Bh/k$, isolate h .	$h = kV/B$
4	In $P = 2l + 2w$, isolate w .	$w = (P - 2l)/2$
5	In $y = (x - a)/b$, isolate x .	$x = by + a$
6	In $q = 7p - 4$, isolate p .	$p = (q + 4)/7$

PART 2 · APPLY IT

1. **m = 4 months** Substitute 42 for T to get $42 = 18 + 6m$. Subtract 18, then divide by 6.
2. **s = 7 T-shirts** Substitute 81 for E to get $81 = 15s - 24$. Add 24, then divide by 15.

CHALLENGE

$$x = Ry/(y - R)$$

Accept algebraically equivalent forms, such as A/l for w or $(q + 4)/7$ for p . For the challenge, require nonzero quantities and y not equal to R .