

**When you hear, "You have to show your work." you probably look like this penguin**



I get it. You know, I know and your parents know that you can do a one-step problem like this in your head without showing any work:

$$x + 7 = 19$$

And, you know, I know and your parents know that you get frustrated and do not get or understand why you to **have** to show work. But, as the year goes on and you learn more things, you will be expected to solve complex, multi-step problems like this one:

$$17 = -\frac{5}{3}x(6x - 6) + 7$$

These types of problems are not as easily done in your head without showing work...*even I have to show work on problems like this!* The reason math teachers want you to show your work on easier things is so that when you do more difficult things, you already know the basic steps to follow, you will be less likely to make mistakes, I can see where you make mistakes and you will be ready to do even more advanced problems.

Here is another reason...everything that you earn a grade on this semester **MUST** have work shown unless you are told otherwise because *even if you have every answer correct, but do not show any work, you will NOT get full credit.* When you tell me, "I did my work on another paper" or "I left my work at home" or "It's in my other notebook"...I completely understand--things like that happen to all of us. *However, you can get points back AFTER you actually turn in or show me the work.*

The bottom line is that even though you get frustrated showing the work, it is important for helping you understand more complex problems, helps me to see where you make mistakes and helps you earn a better grade.