**MAT 171**

**Writing Activity 1 - Algebraic Properties**

For this activity, you will be discussing/explaining algebraic properties common to the course. All of these properties have been used in prior math courses. The goal of this writing assignment is not to use the property, but to **explain** the use of the property to someone who may have not seen the property before. You will be graded on correct grammar and mathematical notation.

***Individual Assignment:***

* Write a paragraph discussing the Zero Product Property. Be sure to explain how and when it is used. Include examples. Also discuss if this can be used for non-zero numbers.
* Write a paragraph explaining how to correctly simplify $\left(a+b\right)^{2}$. Remember, you are explaining how to simplify this expression, not just giving the answer. You should be able to do this without mentioning FOIL!

Please note that paragraphs consist of multiple sentences. While you may use the internet and your book to help you research these topics, your writing must be in your own words. Be sure to cite any references you use. This is an individual assignment. Do not discuss this assignment with other students. You may not use the ILC to help you with the mathematics in this assignment. You may use the ILC writing center.

To avoid additional point deductions, be sure that your assignment includes your name and a proper title above the assignment. Use Times New Roman font size 12, and double space your work. Use at least one external source outside of the notes provided in class. Give proper citation if quoting or implementing what the external source states. You may use textbooks, the internet, or any other creditable source, but be sure to include it in the reference section at the end of your writing assignment.