Directions. You will be graded on how clearly, concisely, and unambiguously you articulate your thoughts on the topics given below. Furthermore, your writing should be free of spelling, grammatical, and stylistic errors. You are expected to turn in a high quality, well-written, and thoughtful work.

Submitting your writing assignments. You must submit a writing assignment by posting it on the assignments message board. Below is the step-by-step process:

1. Go to: http://online.ksu.edu/math_320_MBSCOTT
2. Click on the “message board” link on the left hand side.
3. Look for the writing assignment message board that you want to submit. It is organized by writing assignment number.
4. Click on the “New Thread” link on the upper right hand side.
5. In the subject header put the title of your assignment and then write or copy and paste your assignment in the body.
   It is suggested that you compose your assignment using your favorite word processing program and then copy and paste it to the message board.

Assignment II.
Read through Chapter 1 Introduction to Problem Solving in your textbook. Pay special attention the description of Polya’s four-step process on pages 3-4. You can skim through the remainder of the chapter so you can use it as a reference for solving problems throughout the course.

Below are some things to think about using Polya’s four steps.

- Use it as a guide when you get stuck on a problem.
- You want to own the process. This means not just using the strategies listed in the book but to manipulate, combine, and modified them to make them more useful to you. You might even add your own new strategies.
- The looking back or reflective part of the process may be the most useful part. This gives you a chance clarify your thoughts on how you solved the problem and want you’ve learned while solving it.
   Also there may be times when you still won’t feel comfortable about your solution. Maybe there’s a concept in your solution that you don’t fully understand as much as you would like. However, by by reflecting your solution you can focus in what you’re not getting and in the long term you have a much better chance of finally understanding it.
- Writing down a few words on why you solved the problem the way you did will make it easier for you to understand your solution when you study it in the future. This is especially useful when studying for exams.

Date: Spring 2004.
Write your solutions to the problems given below. Your solutions must be written out so that someone else in the class can follow them.

**Problem 1.** Suppose you are building a patio in your back yard. You need to make the patio 12 feet by 8 feet. The local home improvement store sells pre-made patio blocks that measure 18 inches by 12 inches at a cost of $0.75 each. How much will the patio cost?

Solve this problem using two different strategies. This means you should have two solutions. Then describe the strengths and weaknesses of each of your solutions.

**Problem 2.** Read about the *use a model* strategy on page 548 in your textbook. After reading through the initial problem write out a solution of one of the three problems given on page 613.