The PoW Scoring Rubric

What's important in a PoW solution? What are the different elements of problem solving that are considered? What does a clear and complete solution look like?

We look for good problem solving and strong mathematical communication when reading submissions to our Problems of the Week. Solutions should include enough information to help another student understand the steps taken to solve the problem and the decisions made in the process.

Submissions are scored using the following categories:

**Problem Solving**
- **Interpretation:** Interpret the problem correctly and attempt to solve all of the parts.
- **Strategy:** Pick a good strategy and apply it well, achieve success through skill instead of luck.
- **Accuracy:** Get the calculations and details correct, including writing correct statements and equations.

**Communication**
- **Completeness:** Explain all the steps taken to solve the problem.
- **Clarity:** Explain the steps in such a way that a fellow student would understand, and make an effort to check formatting, vocabulary, and spelling.
- **Reflection:** Check the answer, reflect on its reasonableness, summarize the process, and connect it to prior knowledge and experience.

Submissions are scored using four levels of performance:
- **Novice:** Just starting out
- **Apprentice:** On the right track, but not quite there
- **Practitioner:** Got it
- **Expert:** Wow! Above expectations in some way

**Scoring Grids**

General versions of the grid are available for each of our services, which can be accessed from the main page of each service.

Math Forum mentors, volunteers, and Teacher Members who choose to mentor their own students’ solutions use problem-specific scoring guidelines to help them apply the rubric as consistently as possible.

A grid like the one shown on the right is used by mentors when viewing an individual submission. The “scores” are then automatically pasted into the reply to the student (and can easily be removed if desired) and are available to teachers when managing student work.

http://mathforum.org/pow/scoring.html