

## Approaching Word Problems

You do not need to throw up your hands in helplessness when a word problem is assigned! You can always at least address the following questions:

1. **Just what is the Question?** Paraphrase it! Make it as brief as possible.
2. **What information is given?** List it! Summarize it! Write it in a table!
3. Can we draw it? **Sketch it!** Can we plot it? Graph it! **Visualize the problem.** Write all given information on the sketch.
4. **Connect with theory.** What section of the textbook is your word problem in? What equations might be relevant? Write them down!
5. Still stuck? **Write an educated question!**

If you can not figure out any of these – start over by **copying the entire problem verbatim.** Then go through the list again.