

ASTR 101 — How Homework Works

Two-Stage Submission Guide

Dr. Anna Rosen

The Two-Stage System

Homework in this course uses a **two-stage workflow** that builds your ability to evaluate your own understanding — a skill that pays off on exams.

STAGE 1: SOLUTIONS

Due: Monday 11:59 PM

- Submit your work as ONE readable PDF on Canvas
- Show all reasoning, units, labeled answers

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Tuesday morning: Solutions posted on Canvas

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STAGE 2: GRADE MEMO

Due: Wednesday 11:59 PM

- Compare your work to the solutions
- Score each problem (1-5) using the rubric
- Reflect: What was confusing? What would help?
- Disclose any collaboration or AI use

Why Two Stages?

Traditional HW	Two-Stage HW
Turn in, forget about it	Engage with solutions, learn from mistakes
Find out weeks later what you got wrong	Same-week feedback loop
No practice evaluating your own work	Builds metacognition (self-awareness of learning)
Incentivizes copying for “right answers”	Rewards honest effort and reflection

Research shows: Students who reflect on their mistakes learn more than those who just see a grade.

What Gets Graded?

Your homework score (0–5) combines both stages:

Score	What It Looks Like
5	Thorough solutions with clear reasoning; insightful, honest self-assessment; complete disclosures
4	Solid work with minor gaps; genuine reflection
3	Acceptable but uneven; shallow or generic reflection
2	Incomplete solutions or missing memo components
1	Minimal engagement
0	Not submitted, missing disclosures, or integrity violation

Key insight: You can earn a 4 or 5 even if you didn't get every problem right — *if* your reflection shows genuine engagement with what went wrong.

Common Questions

Q: What if I don't finish all the problems by Monday? Submit what you have. Partial work + honest reflection beats nothing.

Q: What if I got everything right? Great! Your memo should still reflect: Was anything tricky? Did you have to look anything up? What would you tell a classmate who's stuck?

Q: Can I work with classmates? Yes — discuss strategies, check each other's reasoning. But your submitted solutions must be your own work, and you must disclose who you worked with.

Q: What about AI tools? Course-provided tools (NotebookLM) are allowed for studying. Do not use AI to generate solutions you submit. Disclose any AI use honestly.

Q: What if I miss a deadline? Stage 1 (Monday): No late submissions — solutions are posted Tuesday. Stage 2 (Wednesday): No late submissions. **Safety net:** Your lowest homework score is dropped.

Quick Checklist

Monday (Solutions):

- Completed all assigned problems
- Showed work: setup, reasoning, units, labeled answers
- Submitted as **one PDF** (not photos, not multiple files)
- Uploaded to Canvas before 11:59 PM

Wednesday (Grade Memo):

- Downloaded posted solutions from Canvas
- Scored each problem 1–5 with one-sentence justification
- Wrote 2–3 sentences on what was confusing / what would help
- Completed collaboration and AI disclosure
- Submitted memo to Canvas before 11:59 PM