NAME _____

DATE _____

Module 15 Simplifying Rational Expressions
Lesson 4   Adding and Subtracting Rational
                     Expressions

guided notes

Lesson Objectives

- Add rational expressions.
- Subtract rational expressions.

For this entire lesson no denominator of a rational expression has a value

of zero.

Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

To add or subtract rational expressions with like denominators, add or

subtract the _____, keep the common

_____, and _____,

if necessary.

1 Simplify: $\frac{x}{x+1} + \frac{1}{x+1}$. _____

When subtracting two rational expressions, put the second numerator in

parentheses.

To add or subtract rational expressions with unlike denominators, find the

_____. Write _____

fractions using the least common denominator. Then, add or subtract the

_____.

2 Simplify: $\frac{4}{a+2} - \frac{3}{a-2}$. _____