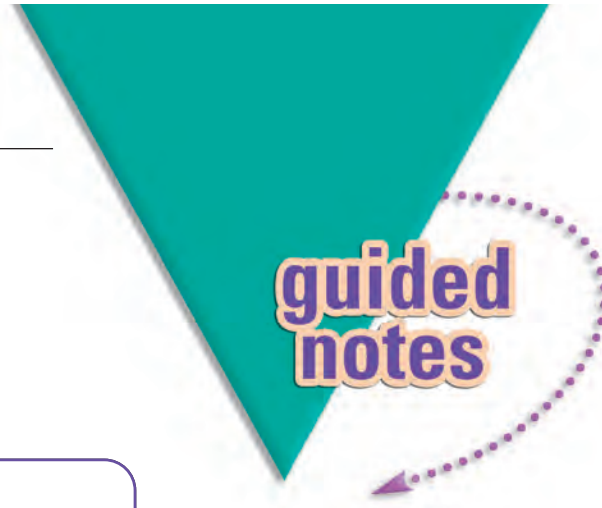


NAME _____

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 **numerators** _____, keep the common **denominator** _____, and **simplify** _____, if necessary.

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

When subtracting two rational expressions, put the second numerator in parentheses.

To add or subtract rational expressions with unlike denominators, find the **least common denominator** _____. Write **equivalent** _____ fractions using the least common denominator. Then, add or subtract the **fractions with like denominators** _____.

2 Simplify: $\frac{4}{a+2} - \frac{3}{a-2}$. **$\frac{a-14}{(a+2)(a-2)}$** _____

