

**To evaluate an expression, it is helpful to “see” the expression with empty spaces where the variables are. To make the “skeleton” of the expression, replace each variable with an empty parentheses “skeleton.” Here are two examples.**

<b>Evaluate <math>x^2 + 4x + 3</math> when <math>x = -2</math>.</b>	<b>Evaluate <math>x^2 - 2xy</math> when <math>x = 5</math> and <math>y = -3</math>.</b>
Skeleton: $( )^2 + 4( ) + 3$ $(-2)^2 + 4(-2) + 3$ $4 - 8 + 3$ $-1$	Skeleton: $( )^2 - 2( )( )$ $(5)^2 - 2(5)(-3)$ $25 + 30$ $55$

**Now try these! For each problem, first write a “skeleton,” then evaluate. Show all work.**

1. Evaluate $2x^2 - 5x + 4$ when $x = -7$ .	2. Evaluate $3a^2 + 1$ when $a = 4$ .
3. Evaluate $\frac{6ab}{a^2 - b^2}$ when $a = -4$ and $b = 2$ .	4. Evaluate $5 - x^2$ when $x = 3$ .
5. Evaluate $5 - x^2$ when $x = -3$ .	6. Evaluate $x^2 - 3x + 1$ when $x = 2$ .
7. Evaluate $-x^2 - 3x + 1$ when $x = 2$ .	8. Evaluate $-x^2 - 3x + 1$ when $x = -1$ .