Algebra 1.5 7.1 **Simplifying Radical Expressions**

* Evaluate rational expressions.
* Find numbers that cause a rational expression to be undefined.
* Simplify rational expressions containing only monomials.
* Simplify rational expressions containing multiterm polynomials.

***Rational expression:*** An expression that can be written in the form ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where *P* and *Q* are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and *Q*\_\_\_\_\_0.

Some rational expressions are:

**Example 1:**  Evaluate the expression when

a. *x* = 2 b. *x* = –1

To **determine** the value(s) that **make** a rational expression **undefined**,

**1**. Write an equation that has the ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ set equal to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**2**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the equation.

**Example 2a:** Find every value for the variable that makes the expression undefined.

**Example 2b:** Find every value for the variable that makes the expression undefined.

**To simplify a rational expression to lowest terms:**

1. Factor the numerator and denominator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Divide out all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the numerator and denominator.

3. Multiply the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the numerator and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the denominator.

**Example 3:** Simplify

**Example 4a:** Simplify

**Example 4b:** Simplify

**Example 5:** Simplify

**Example 6a:** Simplify

**Example 6b:** Simplify

**Example 6c:** Simplify



**Example 7:** Simplify

**Example 8:** Simplify



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