

1077-VB-1391 **Don Small*** (don.small@ymail.edu). *Refocusing Intermediate Algebra.*

The major goal of Introductory Algebra should be to assist students in developing their mathematical reasoning skills. A primary medium for doing this is solving realistic word problems. Mathematical reasoning is developed by emphasizing:

a. Translating word problems into mathematical models, b. Solving practical problems in a real-world context, c. Interpreting charts and graphs, d. Interpreting solutions in the context of the problem, e. Creating trend lines, f. Converting from one measurement system to another, and g. Developing a comfort level that supports mathematical exploration.

Algebraic skills are important as tools for computation, but are subordinate to modeling word problems in the development of mathematical reasoning. (Received September 19, 2011)