Just like with "normal fractions," you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to add or subtract rational expressions.

**Steps to Adding Rational Expressions**

1.) Factor each denominator.

2.) Determine what each denominator has that   
the other one needs. \*Make your table to see!

3.) Multiply the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by   
each piece determined in # 2.

**Note: You may actually have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, but DO \_\_\_\_ DISTRIBUTE on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

4.) Combine like terms in the numerators.

**You should be down to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fraction now!**

5.) Determine if the numerator will factor and   
simplify if possible.

**Your answer should be written in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the numerator & denominator.**

**Examples: Simplify.**

|  |
| --- |
| **1.)** |
| **2.)** |
| **3.)** |

**Subtracting Rational Expressions**

Same as adding except you must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the minus sign to all of the terms in the second numerator (or the numerator that follows the minus sign).

**Examples: Simplify.**

|  |
| --- |
| **4.)** |
| **5.)** |
| **6.)** |