

## Math Induction Writing Guidelines

When writing an induction proof, you need to follow each of the general proof writing guidelines from class. Remember to *keep your reader informed*; thus for an induction proof you need to:

- (1) say what you are trying to show inductively
- (2) say what your induction variable is (e.g., if you are trying to show  $(\forall n \in \mathbb{N}) [P(n)]$   
then say: We will show that *blub* holds for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by induction on  $n$ .)
- (3) indicate where your base step begins
- (4) indicate where your base step ends
- (5) indicate where your inductive step begins
- (6) clearly state your inductive hypothesis (IH)
- (7) clearly state your inductive conclusion (IC)
- (8) indicate where your inductive step ends.

As with any proof, clean up your *Thinking Land*:

- (9) do NOT pull your reader through the mud with you
- (10) in the base step confirm only the cases of  $n$  (or whatever letter you call your inductive variable) that you need to show (no more and no less).