

## Simplifying Rational Expressions

A rational expression is simplified when there are no multiplicative identity pairs within the expression.

6. Follow these steps exactly to simplify the following rational expressions:

- 1- factor the numerators and denominators
- 2- write the multiplicative inverse pair separately and write a "Big One" around each one
- 3- write the multiplicative inverse pair as the multiplicative identity (1)
- 4- write the equivalent expression without the 1.

Example 1: 
$$\frac{x^2+5x-14}{x^2-7x+10} = \frac{(x-2)(x+7)}{(x-5)(x-2)} = \frac{\boxed{1} \cdot (x-2)}{(x-2)} \cdot \frac{(x+7)}{(x-5)} = 1 \cdot \frac{(x+7)}{(x-5)} = \frac{(x+7)}{(x-5)}$$

a) 
$$\frac{x^2+7x+12}{x^2+5x+6}$$

b) 
$$\frac{z^2-25}{5z+z^2}$$

c) 
$$\frac{2x^2-2x}{x^2-1}$$

d) 
$$\frac{2y^2-2y-8}{y^2-9y+20}$$

e) 
$$\frac{8x^3-16x^2}{2x^3-2x^2-4x}$$