

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## Comparing Equations with **COMBINING LIKE TERMS** to Equations with **VARIABLES ON BOTH SIDES** Activity

For this activity you will need:

\*this paper

\*your partner

\*a pencil

\*3 different colored crayons or colored pencils (choose light colors)

\*a calculator

### **Directions (check off the box for each step as you go):**

- 1) Draw a vertical line through the equals sign in each equation to separate the left and right sides.
- 2) Use one of your colors to put a box around each variable term in every equation. Be sure to include the entire coefficient for that term! Don't leave out negatives!
- 3) Use your second color to write "CLT" next to the equations that require you to "COMBINE LIKE TERMS" to solve it.
- 4) Use your third color to write "VBS" next to the equations that require you to "ZERO OUT VARIABLES ON BOTH SIDES" of the equation to solve it.
- 5) Solve each equation. Make sure to check your answers.
- 6) Answer this question: How can you tell by LOOKING at an equation whether you have to COMBINE LIKE TERMS, or whether you have to ZERO OUT VARIABLES ON BOTH SIDES?

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$$6x + 3x - 4 = 23$$

$$7x + 1 = 4x + 7$$

$$7x + 3 = 48 + 2x$$

$$6x - 5 - 7x = -11$$

$$3x + 8 = 36 - x$$

$$6x + 10 + 3x = 109$$

$$2 + 3x + 4x = 65$$

$$6x - 6 = 7x - 11$$

$$10 = -6x + 2x - 10$$

$$8 - 3x = x + 40$$