

Pawlak's Pillars

by *Smokin' Joe AKA Mathdude*

There will be no need for speculation
If you learn and use this collection
Of Pawlak's guides to mathification
On problems in need of clarification

I call them Pawlak's Pillars
I dredged them up from the cellar
Of a mind geometrically & analytically bizarre
For those in need of a guiding star

The first pillar is called VISUALIZATION
Picture your problem – leave out no detail
Important – most certainly yes – do not fail
Add each fact, illustrate all, large and small
Then this mystery can be eye-balled

How does this help? Will this your dilemma melt?
All given data may not be used but you may not know this!
Is it worth the risk? Important facts missed?
Include it all – make a list
Put it into your problem portrait
There's always more than one way a problem to slit
Into pieces that your mind may stay lit
And on it you may display your wit
And squeeze from it each and every bit before you decide to quit ...

... But only to move on to the second step
Which is MANIPULATION if you done the prep
The images you build may suggest a way to attack these problems
To figure a path, to handle those sums
Key equations and terms will come to mind
But only because you drew that line
Or graph or box or triangle
Now ready to finagle?
To shuffle the facts and deduce another?
Infer or deduce, and your doubts smother?

With equations recommended by your picture in view
Proceed to produce a final answer – you're almost through!
The last pillar is called COMPUTATION
You have the final equation
You do the necessary calculations
You check your work against basic definitions
It's solved and you feel the elation
Of a well-deserved cerebral vacation!!!

