

Solving Equations Versus Writing Equivalent Expressions (Simplifying Expressions)

You might give the next two problems to 7th graders. Solve the two problems. Then describe how you could discuss the difference between solving an equation and simplifying an expression (or writing an equivalent expression) with 7th graders.

1. Simplify $\frac{2}{3}x - 1 + \frac{4}{5}x + \frac{1}{3}$
2. Solve $\frac{2}{3}x - 1 = \frac{4}{5}x + \frac{1}{3}$