

## Coloring Pascal Triangles Contest

A coloring Pascal Triangles activity can easily be turned into a “contest”. Have the students each color their own triangle. In an Abstract Algebra class, this can be done by having the students pick their own group to use. For less advanced students, it can be done with modular arithmetic or even multiples. Then post the colored triangles in a prominent place such as a bulletin board or hallway. Hallways are nice because then the triangles can be viewed by other classes as well. A small slip of paper can be attached to each one on which people may place their initials in order to vote for their favorite triangle. At the end of the contest, the person whose colored triangle received the most points can be given a small prize or a some extra credit points.

Writing assignments can be utilized in conjunction with the contest. If the colored triangles are posted in a highly visible area, even classes not participating in the actual coloring can be assigned to write about the triangles. The writing assignment can be open-ended or more specific. Ideas include:

- Pick your favorite triangle and explain why it is your favorite.
- Write about the various patterns appearing in the triangles.
- Pick two triangles and compare and contrast the patterns which appear.
- Research modular arithmetic and include your findings along with a reaction to the colored triangles.
- Research Pascal’s Triangle and include your findings along with a reaction to the colored triangles.