

Identifying Conic Sections

Identify the conic section that each equation represents.

** Remember that there are 4 types of conic sections.

$x + 4 = \frac{(y-2)^2}{10}$ → parabola since only one variable is squared
 $\frac{(x-1)^2}{9} - \frac{(y-2)^2}{16} = 1$ → ~~hyperbola~~ hyperbola since both variables are squared and the terms are separated with subtraction
 $(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 = \frac{81}{16}$ → circle since both squared terms have the same coefficient

★ Ellipse would have two squared terms added together w/ different coefficients.

Example #1:

Given $x^2 + y^2 + 4x - 6y - 3 = 0$.

Write the equation in standard form and identify the conic section. ★ complete the square

★ circle $x^2 + 4x + \underline{4} + y^2 - 6y + \underline{9} = 3 + \underline{4} + \underline{9}$
 $(x+2)^2 + (y-3)^2 = 16$

Example #2: ★ Hyperbola

Find the standard form of $4x^2 - y^2 + 8x + 8y - 16 = 0$ by completing the square. Then identify the conic.

$4x^2 + 8x + \underline{4} - y^2 + 8y + \underline{-16} = +16 + \underline{4} + \underline{-16}$

$4(x^2 + 2x + \underline{1}) - (y^2 - 8y + \underline{16}) = 4$

$4(x+1)^2 - (y-4)^2 = 4$ ★ make equation equal 1 by dividing by 4

$\frac{(x+1)^2}{1} - \frac{(y-4)^2}{4} = 1$

You try:

Write the equation for the conic section in standard form and classify the type.

1) $16x^2 + 9y^2 - 128x + 108y + 436 = 0$

★ ellipse

$\frac{(x-4)^2}{9} + \frac{(y+6)^2}{16} = 1$

2) $6x^2 + 24x - y - 6 = 0$

★ parabola

$y + 30 = 6(x+2)^2$