Significant Figures – Pages 44-50 in book

DUE THURSDAY BEGINNING OF CLASS

You will take notes on the information below so we can discuss it on Thursday in class. You should be looking at the example problems to get an idea of how we will determine significant figures on Thursday, but do not need to take notes on the examples. Take the notes on loose paper.

- What is accuracy? What is precision?
- Give an example of accuracy and an example of precision (can be a diagram like the target)
- What is percent error? What is the equation to find percent error?
- What are three things that can account for error or uncertainty in measurements?
- Why is it important to estimate the last digit in a measurement even though it is somewhat uncertain?
- What are significant figures (or digits)? Explain why "significant" does not mean "certain".
- WRITE THE RULES for determining significant figures in your notes. You will reference this frequently. Include an example for each rule.
- WRITE THE RULES for rounding numbers. A few of these will be obvious, but several will be new.
- Explain how to determine the number of significant figures when adding or subtracting.
- Explain how to determine the number of significant figures when multiplying or dividing.
- Explain IF and WHY you need to use significant figures with conversion factors.