How to Solve Equations Graphically

To find the solution(s) to an algebraic equation using a graphical technique, complete the five steps:

Step 1:   Identify and graph the function on the left-hand side of the equals sign.

Step 2:   Identify the function on the right-hand side of the equals sign and graph this function on the same axis you used in step 1.

Step 3:   Find the point(s) of intersection between the graphs of the two functions.

Step 4:   Write each point of intersection as an ordered pair in the form (x , y). Then, identify the 1st coordinate (the "x" value) of the points of intersection.

Step 5:   Set the variable from the equation equal to the 1st coordinate of each point of intersection. This represents the solution(s) to the algebraic equation.