**CHE1031: Conquering word problems**

***Why do students view word problems as objects of horror?*** Perhaps because it’s hard to know where to begin! Math must be done, but you’ve got to pull out the information and figure out what you need to convert and calculate.

***What to do?***

Try using our required homework format to break word problems down and defang them in a systematic way. An example of the format is shown on the next page. Let’s try combining the format and the railroad track conversion method to solve a gnarly little word problem.

***You are told to paint the walls of a room with dimensions of 10 x 12 feet. The walls are 8 feet high. The room has no windows (scary) and you must paint to door as well as the walls. You need to apply two coats of paint and each is 50 microns thick when dried; thickness is reduced by a factor of two as the paint dries.***

***How many gallons of paint will you need?***

