Lesson 16 Summary

We can represent and solve many real-world problems with inequalities. Writing the inequalities is very similar to writing equations to represent a situation. The expressions that make up the inequalities are the same as the ones we have seen in earlier lessons for equations. For inequalities, we also have to think about how expressions compare to each other, which one is bigger, and which one is smaller. Can they also be equal?

For example, a school fundraiser has a minimum target of $500. Faculty have donated $100 and there are 12 student clubs that are participating with different activities. How much money should each club raise to meet the fundraising goal? If n is the amount of money that each club raises, then the solution to $100 + 12n = 500$ is the minimum amount each club has to raise to meet the goal. It is more realistic, though, to use the inequality $100 + 12n \geq 500$ since the more money we raise, the more successful the fundraiser will be. There are many solutions because there are many different amounts of money the clubs could raise that would get us above our minimum goal of $500.