## Inequalities

Inequalities can be expressed in the following three ways.

1. With an inequality symbol ( $>,<, \geq, \leq$ )
2. With a number line graph
3. Using interval notation

| Inequality Symbol | Number Line Graph | Interval Notation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $x<a$ | $\longleftrightarrow a$ | $(-\infty, a)$ |
| $x>a$ |  | $(a, \infty)$ |
| $x \leq a$ |  | $(-\infty, a]$ |
| $x \geq 0$ |  | $[a, \infty)$ |
| $a<x<b$ | $(\longrightarrow)$ | $(a, b)$ |
| $a \leq x<b$ |  | $[a, b)$ |
| $a<x \leq b$ | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{a}$ | $(a, b]$ |
| $a \leq x \leq b$ |  | [a,b] |
| no solution |  | $\emptyset$ |
| all real numbers | $\longrightarrow$ | $(-\infty, \infty)$ |

A parenthesis is the same as an 'open circle' and a bracket is the same as a 'closed circle'.

When using interval notation; always have the smallest value first. A parenthesis means $x$ can get very close to that number and a bracket means $x$ can equal that number. Never use a bracket with $-\infty$ or $\infty$, since those are not 'exact' numbers.

