

Algebra I  
3.4 Activity

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOUR: \_\_\_\_\_

Why is  $-x$  read “the opposite of  $x$ ”?

A negative sign in front of a variable does not necessarily mean its **value** is negative.

Decide whether the expression  $-x$  is positive or negative when:

$x = 5$

$-x =$

 $-x$  is \_\_\_\_\_

$x = -2$

$-x =$

 $-x$  is \_\_\_\_\_

$x = -7$

$-x =$

 $-x$  is \_\_\_\_\_

Since  $x$  is a variable, is it possible to tell whether the expression  $-x$  is positive or negative? \_\_\_\_\_

*over*

The expression  $-x$  should be read “\_\_\_\_\_.”

The value of  $-x$  is positive when the value of  $x$  is \_\_\_\_\_.

The value of  $-x$  is negative when the value of  $x$  is \_\_\_\_\_.

The value of  $-(-x)$  is positive when the value of  $x$  is \_\_\_\_\_.

The value of  $-(-x)$  is negative when the value of  $x$  is \_\_\_\_\_.

The value of  $-(-x)$  is zero when the value of  $x$  is \_\_\_\_\_.

The three possible meanings for a “-“ sign are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_