

Thermal Processes are Awesome!

Isothermal		Adiabatic	
Temperature is constant.		Heat flow is zero.	
Internal energy (U) does not change based on an equal balance between heat flow (Q) and work (W).		Internal energy (U) changes based solely on work (W) since there is no heat flow (Q).	
* Therefore $Q = -W$		* Therefore $\Delta U = W$, and temperature change is not mitigated by heat flow. Work causes temperature to change MORE than in an isothermal situation.	
* The line on the graph marks the isotherm.		* The line on the graph is more extreme than the isotherm.	
Compression	Expansion	Compression	Expansion
+W is balanced by equal cooling (-Q) to keep temperature constant despite compression.	-W is balanced by equal heating (+Q) to keep temperature constant despite expansion.	+W is NOT balanced by cooling (-Q). Pressure and temperature will therefore be higher than the isotherm.	-W is NOT balanced by equal heating (+Q). Pressure and temperature will therefore be lower than the isotherm.

Thermal Processes are Awesome!

Isobaric		Isochoric	
Pressure is constant.		Volume is constant.	
Internal energy (U) changes based on the unequal balance between heat flow (Q) and work (W).		Internal energy (U) changes based solely on heat flow (Q), since no work (W) is done to change volume.	
* Therefore temperature (T) changes to keep pressure constant at different volumes.		* Therefore temperature (T) changes as pressure changes at a constant volume.	
* The line on the PV graph crosses the isotherm horizontally.		* The line on the graph crosses the isotherm vertically.	
Compression	Expansion	Decreased Pressure	Increased Pressure
+W is balanced by cooling (-Q) to keep pressure from increasing.	-W is balanced by heating (+Q) to keep pressure from decreasing.	Cooling causes pressure to decrease in the same size container.	Heating causes pressure to increase in the same size container.