

Solving



Problems

Solving Problems

Identify Problem:

Students should know that everyone has problems. They should also know that there are solutions to every problem; it just takes time to find the solution.

Activity:

Hang the problem solving steps up in order for everyone to see. See attached problem solving steps and scenarios. Or, you can make up your own.

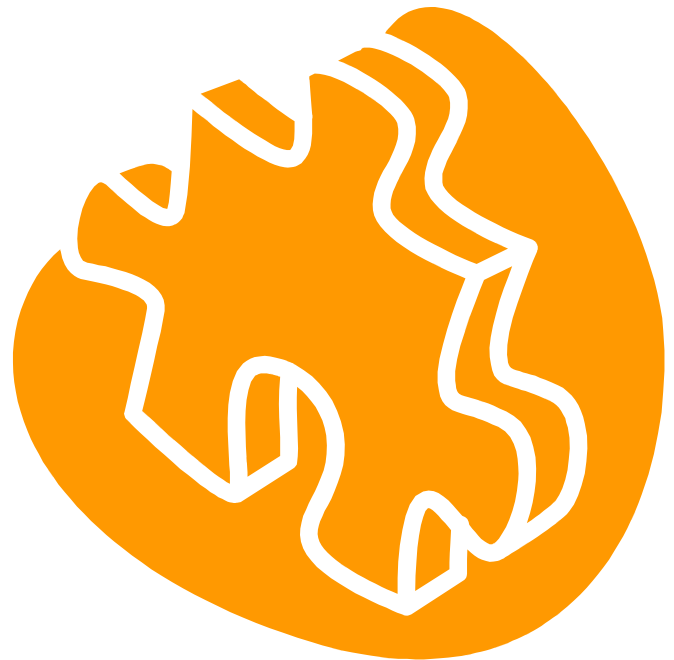
Break the students up into groups of three. Hand each group a scenario and have them read through it. Then have each group go through the problem solving steps for each scenario. Each group will summarize their process.

Identify Skills:

Identify the problem
Decide whose problem it is
List solutions
Predict the outcome of solutions
Talk to people who will help solve the problem
Try for the best solution and evaluate results

Source:

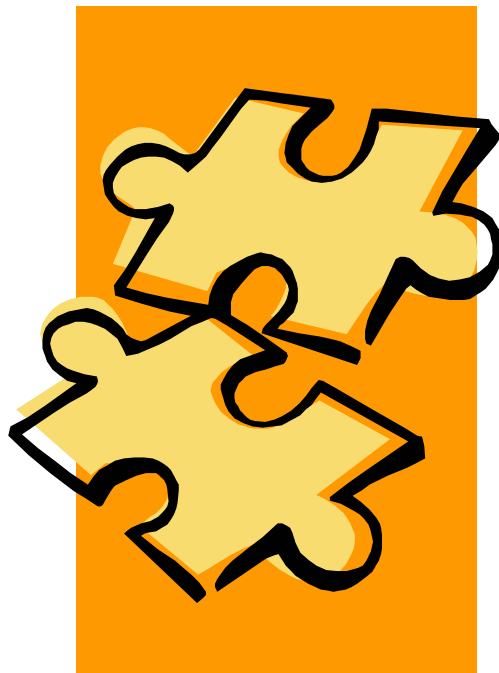
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Problem Scenarios

1. The most popular kid in school is having a big birthday party tonight. Most of your friends have been invited. Everyone keeps asking you if you're going, or they assume that you are, and are wondering if you're getting a present for him. But you haven't been invited. What should you do?
2. You have a big math test today. You've been studying all week to get a good score so you can pull up your grade. Right before class, your best friend comes over to talk to you. She explains that she was busy all last night talking with her boyfriend after they got in a huge fight. She didn't get to study for her test. What do you say and do?
3. Monday was the big day to try out for the Football Team. Your whole family expected you to make it and all of your friends thought you were a shoe in. During tryouts you felt you could have done better. You also feel like the coach doesn't like you because of a few things you said in his class. You didn't make the team and you think it's because the coach doesn't like you and he says that other students were better qualified than you. You're embarrassed, mad and disappointed. You know your family and friends will be too. What do you say to your family and friends?
4. Next week is one of the biggest dances of the year. You like this girl, but she doesn't know it. You feel like there are more boys interested in her and think she will probably turn you down. If she does say yes, you're not a very good dancer and you're not quite sure what to say. There doesn't seem to be anyone else you're interested in, but your friends already have a date and you don't want to stay home that night. What do you do about it?

5. Grades are coming out in a few days and you know your not doing as good as your parents think you should be. You've been studying but you can't seem to get a good grade. Plus there is a basketball game Friday night. You know you will be grounded when they see your grades and you want to go to the game and the dance afterwards. What should you do?
6. You have liked this boy for a long time and he finally starts to pay attention to you. He asked you to the dance Friday night and you can't wait. When he comes to pick you up you can tell he's been drinking. What should you say and do?
7. Today your best friend ditched you, again. It's been happening a lot, and it seems to be getting worse. She has been telling everyone that she really doesn't like you anymore, even though she denies saying it. You have tried to express your feelings to her but she doesn't seem to care. You feel lonely and isolated. What should you do?



Problem Solving Steps

- Step 1** Recognize that a problem exist
- Step 2** Decide whose problem it is
- Step 3** List possible solutions to the problem
- Step 4** Predict what the outcome is of each possible scenario
- Step 5** Talk to people who might be able to help you solve the problem
- Step 6** Try for the best solution and evaluate the results

