

Lesson Plan

Keys To Your Future: College & Career Readiness™

Problem Solving

🕒 45 minutes

Prerequisite: Keys To Your Future—Career Success



INSTRUCTIONS

Each digital lesson is supplemented with a follow-up synchronous lesson plan to extend and reinforce learning. Activities and questions are structured in a way that supports both in-person and virtual classroom settings.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to...

- Define what makes a problem-solver (attributes and actions).
- Use a 5-Step Method for tackling a common problem.
- Work collaboratively to solve a problem using the 5-Step Method.

MATERIALS

- Problem-Solver Profile & 5 Steps to Problem-Solving Handout
- Problem Cards 1–4

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
Opening	Possible Prompt: “Regardless of the degree you earn or the industry you pursue, most employers are looking for people who can problem solve.” Individual: On your own, in 60 seconds, write down 5 problems you might encounter at school or at a job. Class Share: Call on ideas from students and list on the board. Pair: With your partner, discuss what makes somebody a problem-solver, what they do when a problem occurs.” Class Share: List ideas on the board.	<i>Think Pare share.</i> <i>Share out with class.</i>	5 mins
New Learning	Possible Prompt: “Studies have been done to capture what problem-solvers have in common.” Handout: Problem Solver Profile & 5 Steps To Problem-Solving “Let’s take a look at the Problem Solver Profile portion.” Generally, problem solvers... • Have a positive attitude • Don’t whine or complain (it wastes time and energy) • See a problem as a challenge • Listen to or research all sides • Willingly work with others • Try to create a win/win situation “Let’s read about a 5-step process to tackle just about any problem, whether at school, work, or home.”	<i>Read as a class.</i> <i>Complete and Discuss as a class.</i>	15 mins

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
New Learning (cont'd)	<i>This process doesn't always end in success with everybody happy. There are compromises and lessons learned.</i> Handout: Problem Cards Individual: Read the situation on Problem Card 1. Discuss as a class: Use the 5-Step method to <u>verbally</u> complete the 5 steps. (Do not use the 5 Steps to Problem-Solving worksheet blank area) Source		
Activity	Possible Prompt: "Now let's see if you can problem-solve in a group, using a new problem." Teacher: Assign Problem Cards 2, 3 and 4 to groups or allow groups to select. Small Group Read: Make sure everyone in the group understands the story on their problem card. Group Write: Complete the 5 Steps to Problem-Solving for their specific problem card. Whole Class: Allow groups to share. * If time is short, only share the solutions and the class can vote on which solution is best.	Create in small groups. Whole Class share.	25 mins
Discussion	Class Share: - What did you find helpful about the 5-step method? - What did you find difficult or challenging about it?	Discuss as a class.	8 mins

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
Discussion (cont'd)	"Collaborating with others on a solution to a problem can sometimes be more effective. However, it's not always easy." • What are benefits to working on a problem with other people? • What can be difficult about working as a group? • What would you do differently next time to make the process better? (Some considerations: Did each person feel they had a voice? Was it a win/win?)		
Closing	Possible Prompt: "We are hit by problems of all sizes, just about every day. Some we can manage on our own. Some are more complicated or require input from others. Master problem solvers are also master collaborators. They gather information, listen to different perspectives, generate multiple options and works toward a solution that is best for all."	Formalize learning with the whole group.	1 min
Evaluation	On a scale of 1 – 5... How likely are you to apply this method to solve a problem in your life? 1=Not At All 5=Completely	Assess individually.	1 min