

Solving a Problem

For **problem solving** you use a series of thinking skills.

- Define the problem.
- Gather information about the problem.
- Brainstorm possible solutions; then evaluate each possibility.
- Select a course of action based on your information and evaluations.
- Check to see how well the course of action is working.
- Redefine the problem or identify additional problems, and start the process over.

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You use problem solving when you

- get people with differing opinions to cooperate on a school project
- decide whether to use your hard-earned money for a computer, a used car, or a college savings account
- work out a schedule so that you can get your work done and still have time for recreation
- work out the quickest way to get from one place to another

In what other situations would you use problem solving?

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Cluster Question: How Can We Live in Harmony with Nature?

Directions: On the following screen is a description of a problem faced by 12-year-old Andrew Holleman in “David Meets Goliath at City Hall,” a selection in this cluster. Referring to the series of thinking skills on previous screens, list the steps you might take to solve this problem. Then, as a class, go over each plan. Decide which steps would work best. Only six spaces for steps are listed on the following screens; add more as necessary.

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Problem: Twelve-year-old Andrew Holleman's parents receive a notice stating that a real estate developer plans to turn the local woods near their town into a condominium complex. The notice states that a public meeting to discuss the developer's plan will be held at the town hall. Andrew sees the situation as problematic because it will destroy the habitat of the animals that live in the woods and it will deprive naturalists of a place to go to study a nature habitat.

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My Plan:

Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

Step 3: _____

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Step 4: _____

Step 5: _____

Step 6: _____
