

Unit Topic: Problem Solving**Activity Name: Lesson #3, Thinking Critically to Problem Solve****Objective/Rationale:**

1. Students will be able to understand and apply the Five-Step Critical Thinking Problem Solving Process by applying it to real life conflicts once introduced to the process and participating in a class example.

Time Frame: 50 minutes

Materials:

- Hypothetical Scenario, page 2
- Problem Solving Process worksheets, pages 3-5
- Pencil or pen

Directions/Procedure:

1. Ask the students to think about any problems or challenges they have recently had either in school, the work place and/or their personal lives. Have them list these problems/challenges and explain how they have dealt with them.
2. List and discuss the steps a person needs to critically think about to effectively solve problems they may face in college, the work place, and their personal lives.
 - Identify the problem. **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY?**
Think about the problem and gather all the information needed, see if you can break the problem into parts and solve some of the individual parts that are contributing to the whole problem.
 - Make a list of all the workable solutions, determine ones that may have a positive effect and which ones may have a negative effect. Will these solutions make the situation better or worse for you and others involved?
 - Decide on some possible solution and/or solutions. *There may be several to consider.*
 - Examine the solutions and evaluate their effectiveness in solving the problem.
 - Did it solve the whole problem or just part of the problem?
 - If it only solved part of the problem how can the solution be changed or improved?
3. Apply this method to a hypothetical problem. Use a student suggestion or the one on page 2.
4. Distribute pages 3-5. Have each student go through the Critical Thinking Problem Solving Process (steps 1-4 only), to see if they can come up with solution(s) to one of the problems/challenges they listed in the beginning of the lesson or one they are having now.
5. Collect the worksheets and review steps 1-4 for a future discussion. See Suggested/Extended Assignments.

Resources & References:

- Critical Reading, Critical Thinking, by Pirozzi, Starks-Martin & Dziewisz, 4th edition, Copyright 2012, Pearson Publishing
- Problem Solving scenarios: moodle2.ospi.k12.wa.us/mod/resource/view.php?id=3333
- Lesson plan created and adapted by Suzanne Glazos
- Problem solving Process Worksheet created by Suzanne Glazos

Assessment/Evaluation:

1. Problem Solving Process worksheet

Suggested Homework/Extended Assignments:

- After giving the students a few weeks to apply their solution(s) to their problems, based on the Critical Thinking Problem Solving Process worksheet they previously filled out, have them complete step 5 of the worksheet-evaluating the success of their solutions. Have them share their results with small groups or the class.
- Bridges Problem Solving Lessons 1 & 2

Hypothetical Scenario

Around the same time that your cell phone accidentally gets dropped in the pool, your contract with your current cell phone provider runs out. Going without a cell phone isn't an option since your parents require that you stay in touch when you are out with friends. You need to get a new cell phone and a new contract, and you could do this by renewing your contract or by changing providers. Be sure to consider all the things most important to you such as text messaging, etc., and remember that you also need an affordable phone and plan since you will be paying for everything. What would you do?



Procedure:	My Responses:
State the Problem	What is the Problem?
Gather Information	Break the Problem into Parts: 1. 2. 3.



Possible Solutions

Possible Solution # 1

Advantage:

Disadvantage:

Possible Solution # 2

Advantage:

Disadvantage:

Possible Solution # 3

Advantage:

Disadvantage:



<p>Choose Possible Solutions</p>	<p>Solution # 1</p> <p>Solution # 2</p> <p>Solution # 3</p>
<p>Evaluate Solutions</p>	<p>How did the solution work?</p> <p>What changes could be made to the solution to improve it?</p>