

The Problem-Solving Steps

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will apply a structured 5-step problem-solving process to resolve a real or hypothetical conflict.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Notebook paper
- Pencil
- Ruler

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Learn the 5 problem-solving steps: 1) Identify the problem, 2) Brainstorm possible solutions, 3) Evaluate the pros/cons of each solution, 4) Choose and try a solution, 5) Reflect on whether it worked.
2. Using your ruler, draw a 5-row chart on notebook paper with one row labeled for each step.
3. Choose a real conflict or problem you are currently facing (or a realistic hypothetical one, like two friends both wanting to be team captain) and write it in the 'Identify the problem' row.
4. Fill in the remaining rows: brainstorm at least 3 possible solutions, list one pro and one con for each, choose your best solution, and write a plan for trying it.
5. If possible, actually try your chosen solution this week, and add a short note about how it worked in the 'Reflect' row (or predict how you think it would work if you can't try it yet).

QUESTIONS

1. List the 5 problem-solving steps in order.

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2. What problem did you choose to solve, and what were your 3 brainstormed solutions?

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3. Which solution did you choose, and why was it better than the others based on your pros/cons list?
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4. **Why is it important to brainstorm multiple solutions instead of just going with the first idea you think of?**
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