

IDENTIFYING A PROBLEM AND CHOOSING A SOLUTION

CONCEPTS

To identify a problem, you need to look for clues, ask for information, and look at each person's point of view.

Brainstorming solutions requires coming up with alternative ideas for solving a problem. Evaluating solutions for possible consequences helps in choosing a solution.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

Identify a given problem.

Offer several solutions to a problem.

Evaluate solutions.

Choose a solution from several alternatives.

NOTES TO THE TEACHERS

This lesson introduces the first four steps of the problem-solving sequence.

TRANSFER OF LEARNING

When mediating conflicts, first ask for each student's perception of the problem and encourage them to arrive at a neutral problem statement before attempting to solve the problem. Coach students to think out loud when problem solving. To encourage brainstorming when solving interpersonal problems, continue to probe by saying, "That's one idea. What is another solution?"

REMEMBER THE DAY

Have students talk about their experiences of identifying problems and thinking of possible solutions.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEA

Have students write down a problem they've experienced. Have them brainstorm at least four solutions to the problem and then evaluate each solution using the step 3 questions:

Is it safe?

How might people feel?

Is it fair?

Will it work?