

Solve This!

OBJECTIVE:

To have students practice problem-solving skills; to facilitate student awareness of the consequences of their actions

MATERIALS:

Solve This! reproducible (PDF); chart paper; marker

ACTIVITY LEAD-IN:

As a class, have students discuss the different types of problems kids confront on an everyday basis (at school, at home, on the playground, etc.). Record their answers on chart paper. Tell students they will be choosing a problem of their own and getting help from others to find a possible solution. Distribute the Solve This! reproducible, one per student.

PROCEDURE:

1. Have each student decide on one problem he or she would like to solve. Guide each student in choosing a problem that isn't too involved or difficult.
2. On their handout, ask students to describe their problem in words, or draw a picture of it on the back of their handout. Students should also identify three people they want to ask for help.
3. As a group, ask them why they chose these people. How do students think they can help?
4. Tell students they will have a week to ask the three people for their opinions on how their problem might be solved.
5. After a week, have students briefly summarize the three solutions on their handout. Ask them to write down one pro and one con for each solution (you may need to define what a "pro" and "con" are). Ask students to select one solution and write down the reason they chose it. They should try this solution and report back in 1-2 weeks on whether it worked or not.
6. If appropriate, encourage students to share with the class whether their solutions worked. Why or why not? Were there unexpected consequences? If their solutions didn't work, ask students to reflect on what their next steps might be (e.g., try another solution, combine solutions, ask different people for help, etc.).

EXTENSION:

Registered members of SparkTop.org can go to Zack and Zoey's Totally Hidden Audio to listen to problem scenarios and see how different solutions play out in different, wacky ways!



Solve This!

Name: _____

Directions: Think of a problem you're having right now. Describe your problem below, or draw a picture of it on the back of this sheet.

- Think of 3 people who can help you with your problem. Write their names below.

 **Name of Person #1:** _____

 **Name of Person #2:** _____

 **Name of Person #3:** _____

- Write down the solutions that people suggested. Most solutions have “pros” (good points) and “cons” (bad points). Write down one pro and one con for each solution.

 **Solution from Person #1:** _____

Pro: _____

Con: _____

 **Solution from Person #2:** _____

Pro: _____

Con: _____

 **Solution from Person #3:** _____

Pro: _____

Con: _____

- Now choose one solution to try! Why did you choose that solution?

Be a problem super-sleuth!

Visit Zack and Zoey's Totally Hidden Audio at SparkTop.org.™

