

The Problem-Solving Enterprise

Definition 1 (Problem). *A doubtful or difficult question; a matter of inquiry, discussion or thought; a question that exercises the mind.*
(Oxford English Dictionary)

Why Learn to Solve Problems?

Problem solving skills can be used in any classroom.

Problem solving skills can be adapted to situations outside the classroom.

The better we are at solving problems, the more satisfaction and happiness we will derive from life. *Life is a word problem.*

Types of Problems

Puzzles or exercises

Open-ended; might require research

Key Attributes of Expert Problem Solvers

Knowledge

Problem-Solving Strategies – heuristics, rules of thumb.

Tables and charts - organization

Examining individual cases - looking for patterns

Recalling similar problems

Working backwards

Trial and error

Reflection

Beliefs - perseverance, confidence, motivation, interest

Practice