Six-Step Problem Solving

Pick a problem and work through all six steps, alone or with a partner. The steps work for any problem.

Name _____ · Date _____

The six steps

1 Identify whether or not there is a problem.	**2** Set your goal.	**3** Identify possible solutions.	**4** Identify potential obstacles.	**5** Try out a solution.	**6** Evaluate the solution. Did it work? Yes = Great! No = Go back to Step 3!

☐ **Problem 1**
Ricardo has to leave work early for a doctor's appointment.

☐ **Problem 2**
Your bus is running late, and your shift starts in 20 minutes.

☐ **Problem 3**
You have a history project due tomorrow, but you are too tired to finish it.

☐ **My own problem**
A challenge I'd like to solve:

_____

Step 1: What is the problem?

Step 2: What is the goal?

Step 3: What are some solutions? List the pros and cons of each. Then pick one to try.

	Possible solution	Pros (good things)	Cons (bad things)
1			
2			
3			

Step 4: What are some possible obstacles?

What could get in the way of the solution you picked?

Step 5: Try a solution

Write down what you tried.

Step 6: Evaluate the solution

Did it work? ☐ Yes = Great! ☐ No = Go back to Step 3 and try another solution.

Why or why not? _____

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