

## Module 9 v Activity 9 v COOPERATION

Activity: Practice Problem-Solving and Thinking Skills

Materials Needed: Handouts/Transparency: "Problem-Solving Exercises and Problem-Solving Worksheet"

Directions: Put the students in groups of three. Give each student a copy of the handout *Problem-Solving Exercises* and each group enough of the handout Problem-Solving Worksheet to complete however many exercises you are assigning. The groups' assignment is to read each exercise and, using the guidelines discussed in Module 9 and the problem-solving worksheet, determine the best solution for each exercise. You might want to work through the first exercise with the students. Sample answers are provided below for the first two activities. Answers will vary. After the activity is completed, lead the class in a follow-up discussion of their process and answers.

Sample answers  
To Problems 1 & 2:

### **PROBLEM 1**

Identifying the problem: You need to take care of your health so that you can continue providing for yourself and your children

Determining possible solutions:

1. Your neighbor might keep the children.
2. You can ask your doctor how long you will be in the hospital and take those days in paid sick leave.
3. You can ask your mother to keep the children.
4. Don't get the tests done.
5. Ask for leave from work without pay.

Examining your resources:

1. If your neighbor keeps the children, you'll have to return the favor.
2. If you take sick leave, you'll use up your sick leave days.
3. Your mother may nag you about having to keep the children again.
4. If you don't get the tests done, you may get sicker and have an even greater problem.
5. If you take unpaid leave, you'll get the tests done, but you need the money you'll lose.

Coming up with the best answer considering all variables: Ask your neighbor to keep your children and take sick leave from work so that you can get your tests done.

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### PROBLEM 2

Identifying the problem: You cannot afford to pay the \$75 rent increase with your current limited income.

Determining your solutions:

1. You can move.
2. You can take on a roommate.
3. You can move in with your parents or other family member.
4. You can talk to the landlord.
5. You don't pay the extra money.

Examining your resources:

1. If you move, you have to locate other housing and spend time moving.
2. If you get a roommate, you will have no privacy.
3. You might have a hard time getting along with your parents or other family members.
4. Your landlord may not care about or understand your problem.
5. If you don't pay the \$75, you will be evicted.

Coming up with the best answer from the above: Talk to the landlord and explain your situation. Explore payment options.

## Problem-Solving Exercises

Read each of the following scenarios. Using the handout *entitled Problem-Solving Worksheet*, identify the problem, determine your possible solutions to the problem, examine your resources, and assess your solutions to come up with the best possible answer. Be prepared to discuss your problem-solving process and outcome with the class.

### Problem 1

You have been experiencing terrible, painful headaches. You have gone to the doctor, and he has scheduled some tests to diagnose the origin of the pain. You have a job and three children to take care of, and you shouldn't miss any more time from work. What should you do?

### Problem 2

Your rent will go up \$75 per month, and you cannot afford it.

### Problem 3

A co-worker makes a mistake adding up a customer's bill, and it costs your company \$150. The co-worker asks you to lie for him if the boss asks you who made the mistake.

### Problem 4

You've been not only working fulltime for three months at night but also going to school fulltime during the day. It has not been easy to get all your schoolwork done, but so far, you've managed. Now it is your company's peak work period. Your boss has told you that because of the work overload, he needs you to work two days (about 16 more hours) each week until the company gets caught up on its orders. You really don't want to leave your job, but you also want to stay in school. What can you do?

**Problem-Solving Worksheet**

Identify the problem:

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Design your solutions:

- 1. 

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- 2. 

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- 3. 

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- 4. 

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- 5. 

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Examine your resources:

- 1. 

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- 2. 

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- 3. 

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- 4. 

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- 5. 

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Assess your solutions (answer):

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