

Problem Solving Prompts

Questions to Ask Yourself

Understanding the Problem

1. What is the problem asking me to find?
2. What information have I been given?
3. Can I draw a picture of what is happening?
4. Can I think of the problem in another way or context?
5. How can I restate this problem in my own words?
6. Have I seen a similar problem before?
7. What information seems the most important?

Making a Plan

1. What other information can I get from the given information?
 - a. What would this other information get me?
2. Do I notice any patterns?
3. Can I think of a simpler version of this problem to make it easier for me to see a pattern?
4. Can I break this problem into smaller parts that are easier to solve?
5. Can I make a graph or chart?
6. Can I use manipulatives or props to help me?
7. What units (if any) am I working with?
8. Have I considered all the given information?
9. What are some other ways might I approach the problem?
10. Did I do all the steps correctly? Is my math computation correct?

Checking Your Answer

1. Does my answer make sense?
2. Does my answer answer the question asked?
3. Does my answer match up with the given information?
4. Can there be more than one answer?
5. Does my answer have the right units?
6. How can I explain my process to my peers?
7. ***If you have extra time, ask yourself: Is there any other ways I could have solved this problem?

Group Conversations

1. I started this problem by...
2. First I....Then I... Finally I....
3. I tried... because...
4. I need clarification on...
5. I think I understand what you are saying. You are saying...
6. I understand what you mean, but I disagree because...
7. My big moment in this problem was when...
8. I was originally thinking this... but then I realized that I could not because...
9. I was stuck when I tried to do... because...

Questions I'm Prepared to Answer

1. How do I know?
2. What makes my answer correct?
3. Is that true for every situation?
4. Why does this make sense?
5. Am I prepared to defend my answer?