

Five Steps Problem Solving

Here is one strategy for problem-solving, adapted from John Chaffee's *Thinking Critically*. We will use it to practice problem-solving in this module, and I encourage you to apply it to your own life as well.

Step 1: What is the problem?

How can you define the problem? What do I know about the problem? What would be a desired outcome here?

Step 2: What are the options?

Can you list a few possible options to address this problem? What additional information may you need to explore your options?

Step 3: What are the advantages and/ or disadvantages of each option?

What would be the consequences for each of the options? In other words, what happens if you select option 1, what happens if you select option 2, etc?

Step 4: What is the solution?

Which option will you choose? What do you need to do to make this happen?

Step 5: What are the results?

If possible, state how the solution is working? If it's too soon to say, why do you believe it will be effective?