Problem Solving Techniques

Student Success Workshop
The problem solving process consists of a series of activities that begins with the definition of the problem and ends with the solution.
The Problem Solving Process

1. Identify the problem you want to solve
2. Generate several possible solutions to your problem
3. Analyze possible solutions
4. Select a solution
5. Implement your solution and evaluate the results
Group Decision Making

1. Define the problem
2. Break the problem down into manageable parts
3. Brainstorm some solutions
4. Rank or prioritize the solutions
5. Decide how the preferred solution will be implemented
6. Work out how to evaluate the solution
Advantages of Group Decision Making

- Greater pool of knowledge
- Different perspectives
- Greater comprehension
- Increased acceptance
Disadvantages of Group Decision Making

- Social pressure
- Domination by a vocal few
- Goal displacement
Brainstorming is an essential part of good thinking, and it is also an essential part of coming to good decisions.
The benefits of brainstorming

1. It helps you get out good ideas and information.
2. It fosters creativity; it encourages people to see possibilities.
3. It encourages everyone in a group to participate.
Brainstorming

When working with a group:

- Encourage as many ideas as possible.
- Don’t judge ideas (as good or bad) during brainstorming.
- Don’t look ahead to making decisions; stay totally in the brainstorming mind-set.
- Build on one another’s ideas.
- Encourage participation from everyone in the group.
- Don’t worry about the words you’re using to express an idea. Simply try to describe the picture you’re seeing.
- List the ideas that your group comes up with so that you don’t lose them.
Information retrieved from:

- [http://www.sba.pdx.edu/faculty/karynl/Feedback/index.htm](http://www.sba.pdx.edu/faculty/karynl/Feedback/index.htm)
- [http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/pbl/ubuytutor/process.html](http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/pbl/ubuytutor/process.html)
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