4.12: Text: Problem-Solving with Critical Thinking

• Your roommate was upset and said some unkind words to you, which put a crimp in your relationship. You try to see through the angry behaviors to determine how you might best support your roommate and help bring your relationship back to a comfortable spot.

• Your campus club has been languishing on account of lack of participation and funds. The new club president, though, is a marketing major and has identified some strategies to interest students in joining and supporting the club. Implementation is forthcoming.

• Your final art class project challenges you to conceptualize form in new ways. On the last day of class when students present their projects, you describe the techniques you used to fulfill the assignment. You explain why and how you selected that approach.

• Your math teacher sees that the class is not quite grasping a concept. She uses clever questioning to dispel anxiety and guide you to new understanding of the concept.

• You have a job interview for a position that you feel you are only partially qualified for, although you really want the job and you are excited about the prospects. You analyze how you will explain your skills and experiences in a way to show that you are a good match for the prospective employer.
You are doing well in college, and most of your college and living expenses are covered. But there are some gaps between what you want and what you feel you can afford. You analyze your income, savings, and budget to better calculate what you will need to stay in college and maintain your desired level of spending.

Problem-Solving Action Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
<th>ACTION CHECKLIST[1]</th>
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| 1 Define the problem | • Identify the problem  
• Provide as many supporting details as possible  
• Provide examples  
• Organize the information logically |
| 2 Identify available solutions | • Use logic to identify your most important goals  
• Identify implications and consequences  
• Identify facts  
• Compare and contrast possible solutions |
| 3 Select your solution | • Use gathered facts and relevant evidence  
• Support and defend solutions considered valid  
• Defend your solution |


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