



Personal Responsibility

ABOUT MORNINGSIDE CENTER

Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility's evidence-validated programs engage young people in learning essential social and emotional skills and help educators build productive and respectful schools. The 4Rs Program combines superior children's books with engaging SEL activities that explore community, feelings, relationships, conflict, and problem-solving, adding depth to literacy instruction.

Problem Solving

By: The 4Rs



Problem Solving

Note to the teacher:

Problem Solving is an excerpt from The 4Rs™ [Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution] Teaching Guide for Grade 4, Unit 5: Problem Solving, p. 87.

Time: 40-45 minutes

Materials: chart paper and markers; Chart with Problem Solving Process

Students will practice a basic problem-solving method by tackling an actual classroom problem.

Ask students to brainstorm a list of classroom problems. Choose a student to record the list of problems on chart paper.

Guide the class in choosing one problem to focus on. Here's a process you can use to make your choice:

- Go down the list and, as you come to each problem, ask students to raise their hands if they want the class to work on that problem today.
- Eliminate the two with the fewest votes.
- Repeat this procedure until one problem remains.

Show the students the chart of the Problem-Solving Process you made for this activity:



Problem Solving

Problem Solving Process

1. Define the problem.
2. Brainstorm possible solutions.
3. Evaluate the possible solutions.
4. Choose one solution and act.
5. Assess how the solution is working after a trial period; make changes if needed.

Briefly explain the five steps. Then guide the class in using this problem-solving process to address the class problem they've chosen.

When you're done, debrief with the students.

- How was this process for you?
- Do you think we came up with a good solution?
- Would you recommend using the process again?

If you and the class find the process useful, use it whenever problems come up.

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