

Problem Solving- Answer Key

Answers for this worksheet will vary for each student but it's a good idea to discuss the solutions each of them came up with—this part can be an individual or group discussion. Here are some things to consider.

1. Determining realistic solutions.

Points to discuss:

- When faced with a problem, there's a fine line between attainable and unattainable goals.
- It's good to remind students that a healthy balance of positivity and realism is the best equation for successful problem-solving. Although it's always a good idea to have a positive mindset, too much positivity could cause us to make unattainable goals or solutions to our problems.
- List out some examples of unattainable goals so they know what that looks like. [**Ex.** Starting a business and using that side income to pay for gas within a week's time is a plan that has a highly unattainable solution to having no gas money.]

2. Defining the desired outcome.

Points to discuss:

- Make sure students know what outcome they want to have.
- Using the problem given in the worksheet—"You only have \$20 to your name and your car is almost out of gas. What's left in your fuel tank will only last another day, possibly two but your next paycheck doesn't come for another five days. A full tank of gas costs around \$60."—ask your students what would be their preferred outcome:
 - Somehow find the means to fill their car up before their paycheck comes.
 - Limiting themselves and reworking their schedule to make what gas they have left last until payday.

3. Committing to action.

Points to discuss:

- Talk to your students about the importance of actually taking action—[**solution + action = problem solved**].
- Review the answers for **STEP FOUR** with your students and make sure your students are being realistic about the lengths they're willing to take to solve the problem.