

# Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

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## Agenda for Today's Breakout Session

- Introductions
- Session's Objectives
- Definition of Critical Thinking
- Problem-Solving Model
- “Let’s Take a Road Trip!”
- Applying the Problem-Solving Model to Work
- Questions

## **Session's Objectives**

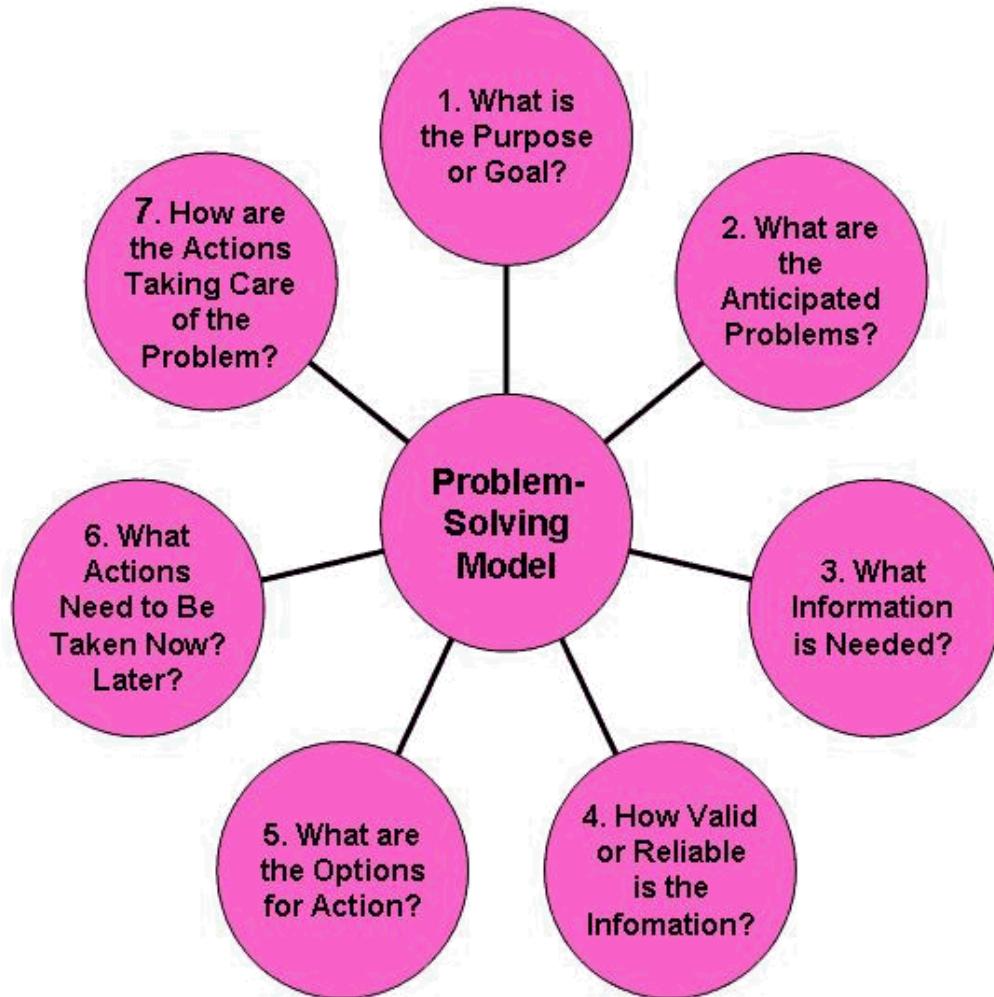
- To learn the definition of Critical Thinking
- To have a basic understanding of the Problem-Solving Model
- To apply the Problem-Solving Model to the workplace

## Definition of Critical Thinking

**Critical Thinking** is the art of analyzing and evaluating thinking with a view of improving it. (Ref: Dr. Richard Paul and Dr. Linda Elder, “The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools”, 2006)

## Problem-Solving Model

The **Problem-Solving Model** is an adaptation of Critical Thinking Principles. The Problem-Solving Model is shown below:



# Road-Trip Activity

Get into teams of twos.

Each team needs:

- Parameter cards
- Road map of the 48 lower states
- Questions Worksheets

## 1. What is the purpose or goal?

Plan a road trip using the Problem-Solving Model and the given parameters.

## 2. What are the anticipated problems?

### 3. What information is needed?

#### 4. How valid or reliable is the information?

## 5. What are the options for taking action?

## 6. What actions need to be taken now? Later?

## 7. How are the actions taking care of the problem?

## **POTHOLE**

**Child gets sick with a cold.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Wallet is stolen.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Flat Tire**

## **POTHOLE**

**Have to come into work**

**POTHOLE**

**Roads closed.**

**POTHOLE**

**Vehicle Stolen**

**POTHOLE**

**You get food poisoning.**

**POTHOLE**

**Luggage stolen out of vehicle.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Child wanders off.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Vehicle breaks down.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Inherits a fortune, but needs to leave now to claim it.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Tornado warnings**

## **POTHOLE**

**Relative passes away.**

## **POTHOLE**

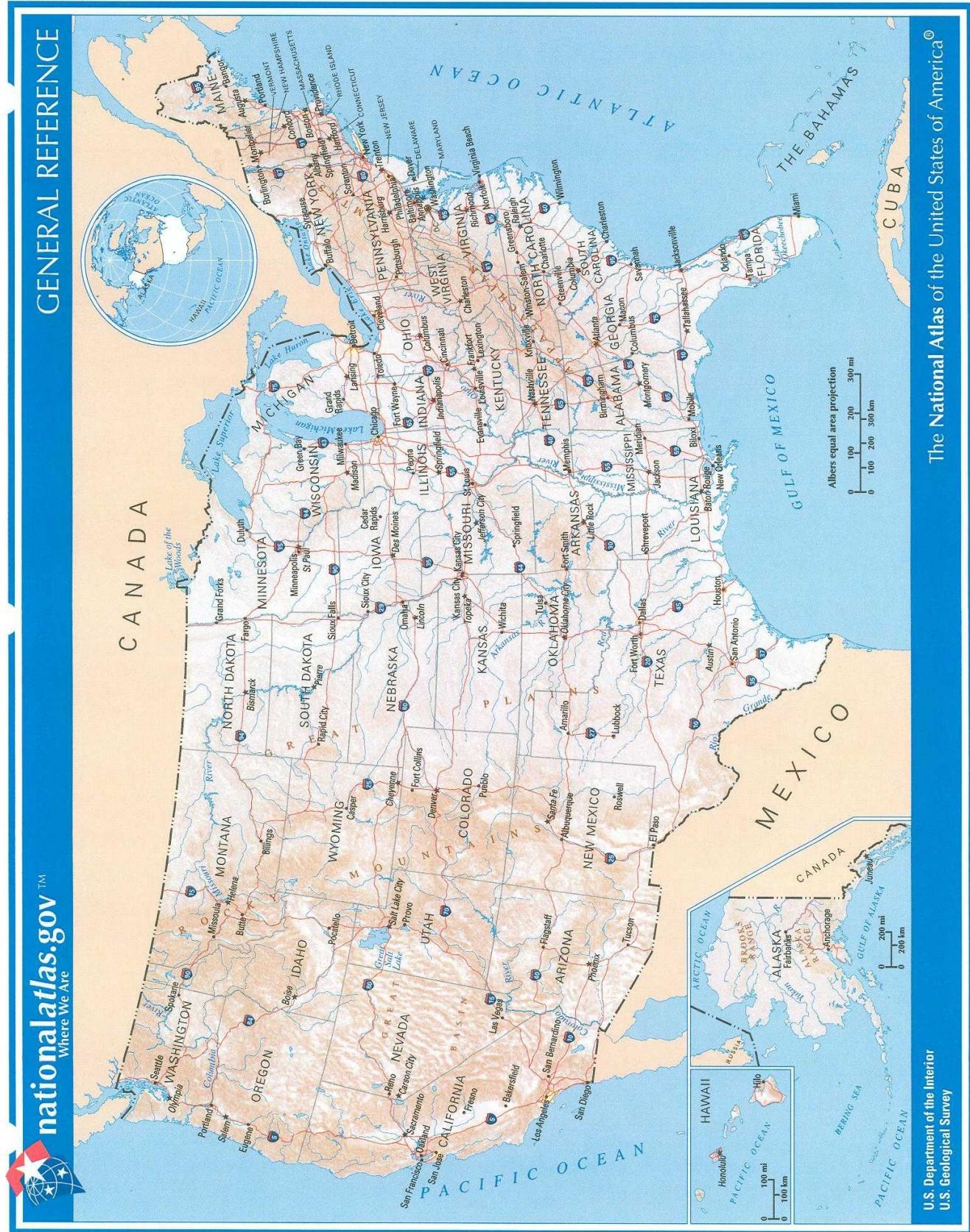
**Get a promotion, but has to go to work right away.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Ran out of gas.**

## **POTHOLE**

**Child throws wallet out of car window.**



## Applying the Problem-Solving Model to Work

**Think about a problem you have at work and then answer these questions.**

## 1. What is the purpose or goal?

## 2. What are the anticipated problems?

3. What information is needed?


4. How valid or reliable is the information?


## 5. What are the options for taking action?

## 6. What actions need to be taken now? Later?

## 7. How are the actions taking care of the problem?

# Questions