

# 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**

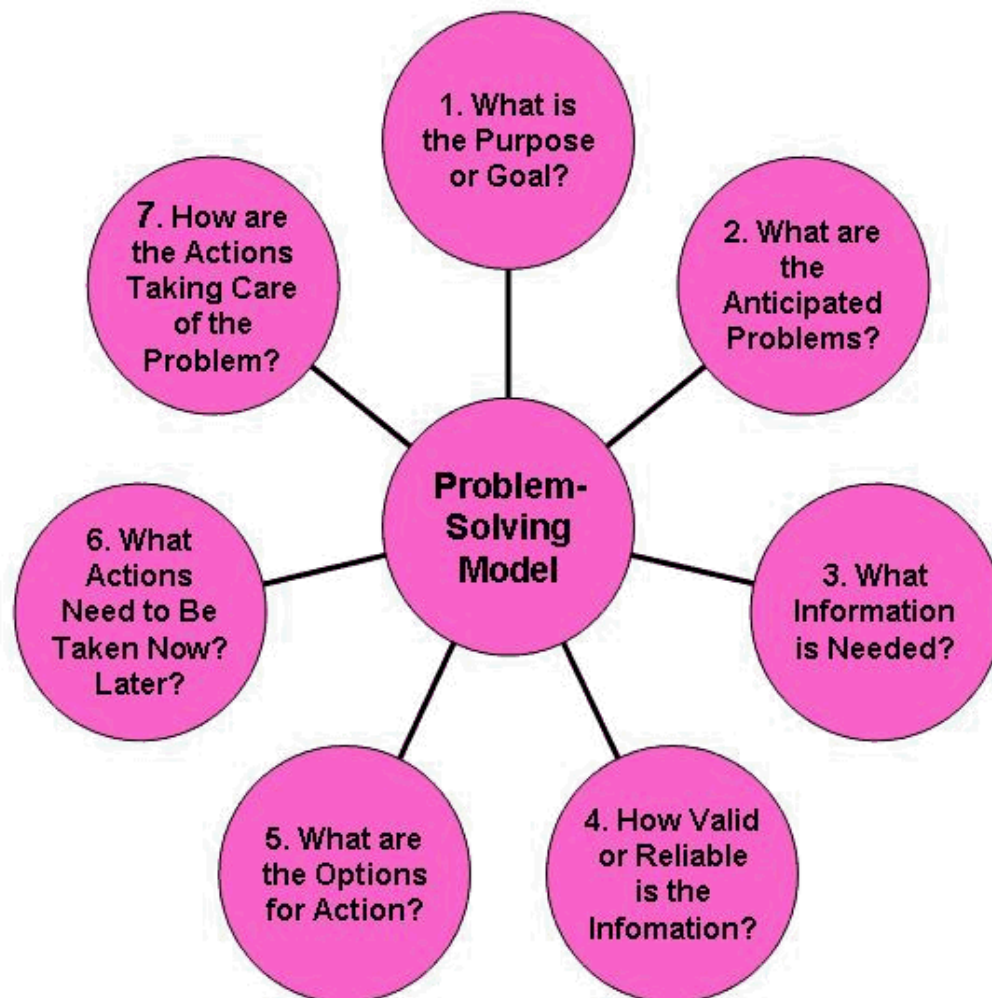
- To learn the definition of Critical Thinking
- To have a basic understanding of the Problem-Solving Model
- To apply the Problem-Solving Model to the workplace

## 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