SDV 100-083A: Week 2 – Assignment:Critical Thinking: Problem Solving Assignment

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Janet thinks that student parking is a problem on campus. There are not enough spaces to accommodate the increasing numbers of students, and many have to search for more than 20 minutes before finding a space.

Use the problem-solving steps to come up with the best solution.

Complete the six critical thinking steps to problem solving and LABEL each step to reach a solution to this problem.

Identify the Problem

Student parking system is probably not efficient enough.

Number of parking spaces (or lack thereof) and the time it take for students to park are assumption and need to be verified.

Generate Ideas

Better public transportation access could remove the pressure from parking.

Better scattered class schedules could remove congestion at certain hours.

Building additional parking lots directly increases capacity.

Satellite parking with a shuttle allows students that are on campus for the whole day to park separately from students that are attending one class.

Assess the Possibilities

Providing better public transportation access is not limited to the school administration. It involves other city and/or state agencies.

Limiting class schedules could limit the variety available to students.

Building additional parking lots required funds and land rights.

Satellite parking with a shuttle requires a comprehensive outreach so students know that the option exists.

Think Through Solution

First we have to make sure that the assumptions presented in the assignment are true. So we gather facts:

How many parking spaces does the school have?

How many parking permits has the school issued?

If the answers to previous questions indicate that we have a problem then we study the parking pattern to see if congestion is constant problem or only during certain hours.

If we have constant parking lot congestion then we need to know:

Is there land to be devoted to parking expansion?

Is there budget to allocate to parking construction?

Choose the Best Solution

Observing that the congestion issue is real but limited to rush hours in the middle of the day and having been informed by the faculty that further adjustments of class schedules is not feasible school decides to work on a satellite parking solution. A nearby mega mall has unused parking slots during week days and is willing to lease them to the school at a reasonable charge.

School decides on a cost of parking at the mall and riding a shuttle that is cheaper than a normal parking permit and advertises that in the school catalog.

Evaluate the Solution

School allows a period of adjustment and combines hard data such as number of satellite parking permits issued and normal parking permits converted with soft data such as an email survey sent to all students to see how successful the solution was.