

Cebu Technological University-Main Campus

Problem Solving 101

Chapter 4 - Soccer School Pros and Cons

Problem-solving kids are great decision makers. They rarely regret their choices, because they take the time beforehand to consider all their options and figure out the best decision for them personally.

There are two tools that are very helpful when you need to evaluate multiple options and select the best one.

Tool 1: Pros and Cons

This tool helps you broaden your options and ensures that you consider both the good aspects (pros) and bad aspects (cons) before making a final decision. The pros-and-cons tool can help you sort out the differences between your choices.

We can do this by following the steps:

1. List All the Options
2. List the Pros and Cons of Each of the Options
3. Weight Each of the Positive and Negative Points You Listed
4. Select the Most Attractive Option

Tool 2: Criteria and Evaluation

You can use this tool to clarify which criteria, or qualifications, you should use to evaluate your options, decide the importance of each set of criteria, and effectively evaluate your options.

We can achieve this through the following steps:

1. List All the Options
2. List the Evaluation Criteria
3. Decide the Degree of Importance of Each Criteria
4. Evaluate the Option Based on the Weighted Criteria
5. Select the Most Attractive Option

The Commentator's Gripping Analysis

A strong team doesn't always equal a great growth environment. We need to re-evaluate our original goals. Then make a Criteria and Evaluation. We often make important decisions without taking enough time to think through the options and to track down accurate information.

Proactively Shape Your Life by Challenging Your Decisions

Luck happens when preparation meets opportunity. We can learn several lessons from Kiwi, the persona in this chapter:

- Spend less time worrying about things and more time thinking about actions you can take to get closer to your goals, then actually take action.
- Ask for advice. You don't have to figure everything out on your own. Look for information to help you make the best decision in the given time.
- Challenge your own thinking processes and your conclusions. Ask the following questions:
 - What are the pros and cons? Do I have the full list? Which option looks more attractive considering both the pros and the cons? Are the pros and cons really pros and cons? What actions could I take to enhance the pros and to minimize or eliminate the cons?
 - What are the specific criteria I should be using? Do I have the right ones? Am I weighting each criterion the right way?
 - Is my evaluation correct? What information am I basing my evaluation on? Is it accurate, up-to-date, and unbiased? What actions could I take to improve the attractiveness of my options?

Problem solving is easy when you know how to set a clear goal, figure out how to reach it, and follow through while reviewing your progress and making changes to your plan as necessary.