

Problem-Solving Skills for University Success

Academic Skills for University Success Specialization

The University of Sydney Centre for English Teaching

‘Documenting your problem-solving processes’

Peer review assignment – Problem-Solving

In this assignment, you will apply the skills and knowledge gained throughout the course to document your problem-solving strategies and skills while solving a problem.

You will have four different problems presented to you, deriving from several different academic fields and areas of life. Your task is to choose one problem from the four listed and work through the steps in the table below, documenting your problem-solving process, in order to come up with a solution. After submitting your assignment, you will then need to assess two other learner’s assessments before receiving your grade. As a guide, the final piece should be around 800-1000 words long, although this will depend on how you choose to answer each section.

Here are the four problems:

1. A large university has started to have issues with undergraduate students, both international and local, submitting plagiarized assignments. What solution (or solutions) would you suggest to the university’s board to help solve this issue?
2. A school in a small town has recently had an increase in bullying in year 9. A group of three students have started to target two other students in their year. As yet, there has been no physical violence, but there has been a lot of teasing and tormenting both online and in class. All five of the students’ grades are falling and they are missing more and more school. Other students in year 9 are starting to be affected by the behaviour. What solution (or solutions) would you suggest to the school board to help solve this issue?
3. Joe is the president of a small island nation. Recently, a company called Ogre have started to discuss the possibility of developing self-driving cars and trucks. Joe has read research that suggests that these vehicles would greatly reduce pollution levels and the number and severity of vehicle accidents. However, the taxi and trucking industries have protested the development of self-driving cars and trucks as they believe these vehicles will take their jobs, leaving them unemployed and unable to feed, clothe and house their families. What solution (or solutions) would you suggest to Joe to help solve this issue?
4. Maxine is a spy who has been sent undercover to an enemy base. She has been put into a team that manages a small factory. The factory produces, among other things, the specific seats for their military aircraft. She needs to stop the production of the seats without arousing suspicion or hurting anyone. What solution (or solutions) would you suggest to Maxine to help accomplish her goal?

You will notice that the problems you are given are the same, or similar to, a lot of the problems from the end-of-week discussion boards for each module. You are encouraged to

Problem-Solving Skills for University Success

Academic Skills for University Success Specialization

The University of Sydney Centre for English Teaching

use these discussions as springboards for your own ideas, however please refer to Coursera's policies on plagiarism in regards to using the ideas and opinions presented there.

Use the following table answer the problem. You will then need to copy and paste the responses into the sections for submission. Please keep a record of the work you do in case of any mishaps:

Problem-solving Skills for University Success Summative Peer Assignment	
Chose a problem	
Understanding the problem	
Choose a strategy for understanding the problem	
Explain the strategy, and why you've chosen it	
Apply your strategy for understanding the problem to your chosen problem (Note: this can be in the form of an image or diagram, or a written reflection on the action you took).	
Strategise for a solution	
Choose a strategy for developing solutions to your chosen problem	
Explain the strategy, and you've chosen it	
Explain the solution options you have developed as a result of your chosen strategy	
Evaluate solutions	
Come up with criteria for evaluating solutions	
Write in order of importance, and give reasons for your answer	
State your chosen solution and justify according to criteria	

Problem-Solving Skills for University Success

Academic Skills for University Success Specialization

The University of Sydney Centre for English Teaching

Marking Criteria

Problem-solving Skills for university Success Summative Peer Assignment			
	Doesn't do this OR does this poorly	Does this	Does this well
Chosen problem			
Understanding the problem			
Choose a strategy for understanding the problem			
Explain the strategy, and why you've chosen it			
Apply your strategy for understanding the problem to your chosen problem			
Strategize for a solution			
Choose a strategy for developing solutions to your chosen problem			
Explain the strategy, and why you've chosen it			
Explain the solution options you have developed as a result of your chosen strategy			
Evaluate solutions			
Come up with criteria for evaluating solutions			
Write your criteria in order of importance			
State your chosen solution and justify according to criteria			