

# CA172 Problem Solving

## INDIVIDUAL LOOKBACK (GROUP 110)

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### 1. Week 4-Problem Solving:

This topic dealt with the issues with problem solving and how us as students can become avid problem solvers, using the 5 problem solving steps and strategies shown to us during the course of this topic. Before learning the steps and strategies to being a successful problem solver, I had difficulties with achieving a correct solution to a problem. Since completing this topic I have been able to be more efficient and selective in my approach to solving a problem, also I was more capable to tackle more difficult problems which would've seemed impossible to solve before the completion of this topic. Here is my evaluation on the topic:

Start: Throughout this topic I found that my technique for solving problems was completely inadequate when in comparison with the method shown in the module. Therefore, I should start implementing the strategies shown to simplify the problem.

Stop: During this topic, I realized that I should stop approaching problems without using the steps in the topic.

Continue: I should continue being motivated and persistent in my approach to problem solving.

### 2. Week 6-Lateral Thinking:

This Topic dealt with typically more abstract problems when compared with the problems we previously encountered in this module. These problems led us to believe that the solution was very exaggerated, but as we tried to

solve the problem the solution was actually quite obvious if the correct approach was taken. Here is my evaluation on the topic:

Start: This topic showed that I should be open to a more abstract approach to solving problems.

Stop: I learned that I tended to rush into these types of problems without reading it carefully. To solve this I should take an extra minute or two to read the problem again.

Continue: I should continue using the strategies learnt in week 4 to simplify the problem.

Application: Throughout this semester I implemented what the skills I learned from the topics above in other modules such as programming. I used these skills to solve the lab tasks and exam questions.

## GROUP LOOKBACK (GROUP 201)

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During the second half of the semester, our group successfully completed the screencast assignment. This involved being efficient problem solvers as a group. Our task was to effectively illustrate systematic problem solving using a screencast prepared by our group. As a group, we had to adopt a systematic approach to our assignment. First, we decided our group roles. Then, we set out our goal, which was completing the screencast, and then how we were going to achieve our goal. My role in the group was energizer, this involved motivating my group to achieve a greater level and higher quality of activity.

1. Critical thinking: Critical thinking played an essential role in the course of our assignment. In the heat of the assignment we had to involve critical thinking to remain objective to evaluate the task we were given.

2.

Start: Throughout our group I realized I didn't consider some of the more 'abstract' ideas from my group as I didn't believe that they were valid solutions, but looking back I realize that these my group were more creative thinkers and less critical thinkers, and I need to be more open to their opinions.

Stop: I Should stop trying to use my solutions to a problem as my group at times had much better solutions to my problems.

Continue: I should continue to be a successful critical thinker, especially when given a more important role in the group.

3. Groupwork: During this assignment, I believe we worked effectively as a group to successfully complete the task at hand. Most of us in the group carried out our roles as they were described and the communication we used was mostly effective.

Start: As a group, we should've taken the group roles more seriously. As for me, I should get involved with more groupwork by obtaining a more crucial role in the group, like the chair, as I felt the approach my group wasn't effective and I would've used a different approach.

Stop: I should stop trying to rely on my group to do most of the work, as I had problems with some the work they did. I should try to get involved with more work in the project.

Continue: I should continue to be a successful energizer and continue being an effective communicator within my group.

4. Presentation Skills: This assignment tasked us with preparing slides about our plan of action for the screencast and then presenting to it in front of fellow students.

Start: After the presentation, I realized that I need to prepare my slides better. I was told that my slides were missing some information and that the font was too small for the rest of the people to see. In future I need to spend more time preparing the slides.

Stop: I should stop talking for too long during the presentation and leave more time for slides with more information in them.

Continue: I should continue to articulate myself well throughout the presentation.