






## Advice on Modeling

These are some steps that successful modelers often take, and questions that they ask themselves. You don't necessarily have to do all of these steps, or do them in order. Only do the parts that you think will help you make progress.

	<p><b>Understand the Question</b></p> <p>Think about what the question means before you start making a strategy to answer it. Are there words you want to look up? Does the scenario make sense? Is there anything you want to get clearer on before you start? Ask your classmates or teacher if you need to.</p>
	<p><b>Refine the Question</b></p> <p>If necessary, rewrite the question you are trying to answer so that it is more specific.</p>
	<p><b>Estimate a Reasonable Answer</b></p> <p>If you don't have enough information to decide what's reasonable, try to come up with an answer that would be too low, and an answer that would be too high.</p>
	<p><b>Identify Unknowns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the meaningful quantities in this situation? Write them down.</li> <li>• What information would be useful to know? In order to get that information, you could: look it up, take a measurement, or make an assumption.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Gather Information</b></p> <p>Write down any of the unknown information that you find. As you work, organize your information in a way that makes sense to you.</p>