

PROBLEM SOLVER BADGE RUBRIC

The PROBLEM SOLVER tackles challenges alone or in teams by effectively accomplishing the following <i>Dimensions</i> :	The PROBLEM SOLVER BADGE validates that the earner has demonstrated the skills necessary to resolve complex problems/challenges by exercising sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome challenges. The individual is able to obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data in this process, and should demonstrate originality and inventiveness. To receive the badge, earners will score at least 12 out of 18 points, with all dimensions rated at competent or above.			
	Emerging - 0 points	Developing - 1 point	Competent - 2 points	Accomplished - 3 points
Articulating the problem.	Recognizes the existence of a problem, but struggles to identify the root causes of the problem.	Demonstrates awareness by listing some of the symptoms (of the problem) and uses this awareness to identify some of the root causes of the problem.	Demonstrates the ability to articulate the complex systemic factors that contribute to the problem.	Demonstrates the ability to articulate a problem statement that recognizes and integrates the symptoms, root cause(s), and complex systemic factors.
Identifying the desired end result.	Presents unclear and imprecise results not related to contextual factors.	Outlines possible results but do not lead to a clearly identified end goal.	Differentiates among possible results and selects a desired end goal that is coherent and relevant to contextual factors (e.g., academic knowledge, personal life, work experience, civic engagement, etc.).	Integrates academic knowledge, work experience, and relevant skills to develop a realistic vision that effectively addresses the problem identified.
Brainstorming creative options for achieving the desired end result.	Lists examples of one or more approaches for solving the problem but lacks creativity/innovation.	Identifies possible strategies for achieving the desired goal, acknowledging perspectives other than own, but that are “off the shelf” rather than individually designed to solve the problem with creativity/innovation.	Connects strategies for achieving the desired goal to facts or theories from more than one field of study and creatively relates to the end result.	Demonstrates ability to synthesize multiple options and integrate them creatively but without conducting any analysis.
Analyzing and selecting the option that best achieves the desired end result.	Uses, in a basic manner, abilities/theories/or strategies learned in previous situation in a new situation.	Uses skills/abilities/theories/strategies gained in a previous situation in a new situation to illustrate alternative ways of solving a problem, or to contribute to a new understanding of issues.	Adapts and applies more specific and targeted skills/abilities/theories/strategies gained in a previous situation to a new situation to solve a problem or explore the issue related to the desired goal.	Analyzes and selects theories/strategies learned in prior situations that best solve the problem or explore an issue in the context of a new situation and in original ways.
Developing a plan of action that will achieve the desired end result.	Retrieves action steps that only indirectly address the problem statement.	Constructs models using methodologies from prior situations to address contextual factors of the desire goal/problem.	Interprets/translates actions steps from prior situations and organizes them into models that relate to a plan to achieve the desired goal.	Designs a coherent achievable plan of action that includes steps to address the problem in relation to contextual factors in order to attain the desired goal.
Enacting the plan of action and adapting as needed.	Executes disconnected steps/strategies that do not directly address the problem statement.	Carries out action steps structured in a manner that addresses the problem statement, but ignores relevant contextual factors.	Implements action steps organized to achieve the desired goal in a manner that addresses the specific contextual factors of the plan	Implements the plan in a manner that connects and adapts action steps (as needed) to address multiple contextual factors in the plan for achieving the desired goal.
Evaluating the outcomes in relationship to the desired goals.	Reviews results superficially, with overly general descriptors of success and failure , with no consideration of need for revision of action steps for achieving the desired goal.	Reviews results with reference to the desired goal and articulates strengths and challenges in achieving the goal.	Evaluates changes in the process towards achieving the desired goal, recognizing contextual factors that would either impede or contribute to the solution of the problem.	Judges the outcomes/results relative to the problem statement and uses results (data) to inform an improvement plan toward achieving the envisioned solution for the problem.