

Solving Problems Critically and Creatively

You solve problems every day, and not just in math class. You figure out what to wear, what to eat, and how to manage friendships. You can solve even bigger problems using critical and creative thinking. Watch this video to find out how.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8OQ9Vsx21g>

Your Turn Critically analyze a problem. Think of a problem that relates to something you are studying, or use this problem: **Many people don't have enough to eat.** Analyze the problem critically by writing down the causes and effects of it in a chart like this one.

(Answers will vary.)

Problem:

Causes Why does this problem happen?	Effects What results from this problem?
Drought kills crops and animals.	Hunger
War-torn countries struggle to produce/distribute food.	Civil unrest/anger, rebellions, terrorism
Refugees flood into ill-prepared areas.	Borders close; political shifts.
Food is wasted in some countries.	The food that is available doesn't reach those who need it.

Your Turn Creatively offer solutions. Review the causes and effects of your problem. Brainstorm ways to remove one or more of the causes. Brainstorm ways to lessen one or more of the effects. Create a list of as many possible solutions as you can, even wild ones! Which solution interests you most? What would you have to do to make it work? (The next step in problem-solving is planning the solution.)

(Answers will vary.)

- See more at

<http://k12.thoughtfullearning.com/minilesson/solving-problems-critically-and-creatively>