

Talents Unlimited

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There are several different methodologies for “problem solving.” We will begin with a program that lists six life skills. We have added one life skill that of “implementation.” Each CHAMPION for a project is expected to either become or have a proficient facilitator on their project team. This technique can be used with other online resources to gather potential solutions.

1

Life Skills:

- Creative thinking
- Problem Solving/Decision Making
- Forecasting/Futuristics
- Communication
- Planning
- Academic
- Implementation

2

Creative Thinking:

- Fluency/Many Ideas
- Flexible/Varied Ideas
- Originality/One of a Kind IDEA
- Elaboration/Describe/Draw/Tell your idea

3

Scoring:

- How many ideas? 1 Point
- How many categories? 1 Point/category
- Hunting for a one of a kind (out loud) 5 points
- Describe idea
- Add up points

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Ketchup Flow

Problem:

Design a flow control mechanism for ketchup by May 1, 2008 that can be applied to all condiments.

1

Problem List:

What are all the potential problems with, e.g., "ketchup bottles and flow."

2

Define with a problem statement:

- In what ways might we...or How might we
- A date by which we will solve this problem...
- Action verb (create, design, implement, invent, etc.)

3

Brainstorming/Productive Thinking:

- 20 ideas in ten minutes (many, varied and unusual solutions)
- Pick out the ten best solutions to score against criteria

4

Define at least five screening criteria:

- Time
- Money
- People
- One other related to a problem
- Other related to the market size and location

5

Take the ten favorite solutions and create a screening table

- Five screening criteria along the top of a table
- Ten ideas along the side of a table
- Rank order from best to least (10 to 1)
- Least to most/least to most—think in extremes
- Select the top one or two and combine if possible

6

Plan of Action (Table with the following categories at the top)

- Action (Network, design, advertising, investors, manufacturing, distribution, prototype, etc.)
- Who
- Date completed

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Screening Criteria Table

Make a list of five key screening criteria:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Ideas	Criteria 1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3	Criteria 4	Criteria 5	Total

Rank order from 1 to 10 with ten the highest or best.

