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## FIVE POINTS FOR GOOD PROBLEM SOLVING

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1. POSITIVE ATTITUDE - idea that problems can be solved through careful, persistent analysis. Poor problem solvers express the opinion "either you know the answer or you don't and if you don't you might as well give up."
  2. CONCERN FOR ACCURACY - understand the facts and relationships fully. Reread the problem several times.
  3. BREAKING THE PROBLEM INTO PARTS - break into smaller steps. Start at a point where you can make some sense of it and proceed.
  4. AVOID WILD GUESSING - avoid jumping to conclusions without going through the necessary steps to make sure the conclusions are accurate.
  5. ACTIVENESS IN PROBLEM SOLVING - good problem solvers do more things as they try to understand and answer difficult questions. Examples: mental pictures, real diagrams, viewing the problem or terms with familiar experiences and concrete examples; ask questions "talk to themselves" to clarify thoughts.
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