

PROBLEM-SOLVING TECHNIQUES

from the Problem Solving for the Young, the Very Young,
and the Young at Heart Mini-MOOC

July 2013

1. Successful Flailing (mess around until you get somewhere....)
2. Do SOMETHING! (don't just sit there staring blankly at the problem--what do you know, or what can you do?)
3. Engage in Wishful Thinking ("I could solve the problem if only it were 'this' instead of 'that.' Where does that thinking lead you?)
4. The Power of Drawing a Picture (visualize, visualize, visualize)
5. Solve a Smaller Version of the Same Problem (figure it out at a simpler scale and then apply it to the problem at hand)
6. Eliminate Incorrect Choices (the more you can cross off as clearly the wrong answer, the fewer options you have to test)
7. To Be Revealed
8. To Be Revealed
9. To Be Revealed
10. To Be Revealed