**CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING**

**PRACTICAL TASK**

**Critical thinking and problem solving**

**Objective of the task:** to develop and strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills by applying them to a real-world issue.

**Instructions**

Choose a real-world issue that interests you, whether it's related to work, your personal life, or a societal problem (e.g., environmental sustainability, traffic congestion, or improving a business process). Follow the steps below to apply critical thinking in analyzing and solving the problem.

**Steps:**

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| Identify the problem clearly: | |
| * Define the problem in detail. What is the issue you're facing? Why is it important to solve? Be specific about the scope of the problem. |  |
| Gather information: | |
| * Research the problem thoroughly. Gather data, facts, and viewpoints from various sources. * Evaluate the reliability and credibility of the information you collect. Are the sources trustworthy? Is the information relevant and accurate? |  |
| Analyze the problem: | |
| * + Break down the problem into smaller components. What are the key factors contributing to the problem?   + Identify underlying causes rather than focusing on surface symptoms. Ask yourself, "What is causing this problem to persist?" |  |
| Consider multiple perspectives: | |
| * + Look at the problem from different angles. How do various stakeholders (e.g., employees, customers, society) view the issue?   + List at least two or three alternative solutions or ways to approach the problem. |  |
| Develop a solution: | |
| * + Based on the information and analysis, propose a solution.   + Justify why this solution is the most effective based on evidence and reasoning.   + Consider the potential challenges and risks of your proposed solution. How will you mitigate these risks? |  |
| Evaluate the solution: | |
| * + Think critically about the proposed solution. Does it address the root cause of the problem?   + What are the potential outcomes, both positive and negative? How can you measure success?   + Consider long-term sustainability—will your solution work in the future, or is it a temporary fix? |  |

**Reflection**

Once you've completed the task, reflect on the process. Did your understanding of the problem evolve as you applied critical thinking? Were there any biases or assumptions you had to challenge?

***This exercise helps you practice problem-solving using critical thinking by requiring you to gather information, think analytically, and evaluate solutions logically.***