RUBENSTEIN SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES



PROBLEM SOLVING RUBRIC

Students will be able to design, evaluate, and employ appropriate frameworks to effect change and generate collaborative solutions to complex problems.

Objective	Definition	Key Term	(3) Competence	(2) Building Capacity	(1) Exposure
Solving problems with tools and frameworks	The ability to distinguish and employ a variety of strategic approaches and methods in order to identify problems, then address them and solve them.	Identify the problem	Examines and describes an issue through multiple perspectives; demonstrates sophisticated analysis to identify the complexities of a problem to discern its underlying causes.	Describes the problem by showing the ability to identify its complexities and discern its underlying causes.	Describes the problem, while showing limited ability to identify its complexities or discern its underlying causes; may focus on its symptoms rather than its roots.
		Define and contextualize the problem	Demonstrates sophisticated ability to construct a clear and insightful problem statement with evidence of all contextual factors; identifies how values and biases influence the construction of a problem statement.	Demonstrates the ability to construct a problem statement through evidence and awareness of its most relevant contextual factors, and thereby produces an adequately detailed problem statement.	Demonstrates the ability to construct a problem statement, but limited to evidence of the most relevant contextual factors; therefore, a problem statement that is somewhat superficial.
		Identify strategies	Identifies and assesses multiple approaches for solving a problem that apply within a specific context.	Identifies and assesses multiple approaches to solve the problem, of which only some may apply within a specific context.	Identifies only a single approach, or may submit multiple approaches that are not applicable within a specific context.
		Evaluate potential outcomes	Identifies and examines tradeoffs for solutions; evaluates, deeply and thoroughly, the history of the problem, can review and examine the logic, reasoning, and feasability of proposed solutions, and weighs the impacts of the solutions.	Identifies tradeoffs for solutions; evaluates solutions, including the history of the problem, logic and reasoning behind solutions, and feasibility of solutions, and weighs the impact of solutions.	Identifies tradeoffs for solutions; in evaluating solutions may show limited recognition of the history of the problem, cursory review of the logic or reasoning it involves, limited examination of the solution's feasibility and minimal weighing of the solution's impacts.
Leveraging resources	The ability to use the appropriate range of physical, financial, social and intellectual resources to influence a particular outcome.	Leverage resources	Identifies, accesses and applies the appropriate range of resources to influence a specifically defined outcome.	Identifies and accesses multiple resources in order to influence a specifically defined outcome.	Identifies one or more resources that may influence a particular outcome.
Catalyzing change	The ability to work with stakeholders to intervene in a system in order to facilitate its transformation and accelerate it.	Catalyze change	Demonstrates sophisticated proficiency in utilizing a problem solving framework collaboratively and practices that facilitate change toward a stated intention.	Demonstrates proficiency in collaborative utilization of a problem solving framework and practices that will facilitate change toward a stated intention.	Identifies a problem solving framework and practices that can facilitate change toward a stated intention.

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