

Instructional Scenario

What is the problem?



Course/Duty Area: Cadet Leadership / Leading Self: Foundations of Leadership

Scenario: Like many college students, you are short on cash. Your personal expenses and other college costs are higher than what you budgeted for, and you are concerned you will run out of money before the school year ends. You are considering getting a part-time job but are unsure if this is doable since you are also involved in ROTC and other activities that take up a large portion of your time; you also need to maintain your grade point average or risk losing your scholarship. You must balance financial needs with academic, personal, and ROTC commitments to make a responsible decision.

Big Question: How can you manage your financial situation while balancing other academic, personal, and ROTC commitments?

Focused Questions:

1. What kind of problem (type of structure) are you facing?
2. How might the way that you process information contribute to the problem?
3. Which service's problem-solving model do you think works best for thinking through this problem?
4. What kind of problem solver are you?
5. How does learning to logically solve problems affect you now and in the future?

Project-Based Assessment:

- Divide the class into three or four groups.
- Each group should select a leader.
- Apply the steps of the military service problem-solving process that works best for the situation. Ask the students to identify why they chose the specific method.
- Have students reflect on what types of problem solvers they are.
- Group members can evaluate each other and help each other identify their problem-solving style.
- Groups can share their responses with the class.

Teacher Resources:

- [Army Problem Solving Process](#) (video), MSL202 Lesson 04, University of Montana AROTC
- [Air Mobility Command \(AMC\) office seeks to solve problems in 8 steps, U.S. Air Force](#)