



Problem Solving

The United States Post Office



OUR STEPS

- ✓ 1. Read about the problems & discuss the articles with Miss Kelly.
- ✓ 2. Choose a problem to solve.
- ✓ 3. Generate ideas.
4. Choose the best idea and use feedback to improve it.
5. Create a final solution: write, build, make, do.

My problem is...

9:30 - 10:15 Write it, build it, make it, do it!

10:15 - 10:30 Share it

The facts are these...



The USPO does not have enough money to continue to do its job.


The USPO is required by law to have 5 billion dollars set aside for retirement funds.

The USPO has to get its plans approved by Congress. They can't make big decisions on their own.

The USPO is trying new things like: teaming up with other businesses (Staples, Amazon), closing some local post offices, ending Saturday mail delivery, selling popular culture stamps, etc.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Problem Solving: Getting and Using Feedback

Part One: After generating many, varied, and unique ideas and choosing your most promising idea, describe that idea in the space below. 

Part Two: Get feedback from a peer using our Peer Feedback Slip. Staple your feedback to this paper.

Part Three: Make a ~~bullet~~ list of the improvements you are going to make to your idea based on the feedback you received.



If you need more space, please use lined paper and staple it to this page.

Peer Feedback Slip

Date: _____

Name of Problem Solver: _____ Initials of Feedback-Giver: _____

Name of Problem: _____

While listening to the Problem Solver's idea, check-off the items that you think s/he need his or her attention and/or the things you notice about the idea:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the idea is unique | <input type="checkbox"/> the idea is detailed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the idea is too simple | <input type="checkbox"/> the idea captures my interest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the idea improves the situation | <input type="checkbox"/> the idea is easy to understand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the idea is focused on the problem | <input type="checkbox"/> the idea should be improved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the idea sounds like something that is already happening | |



Here are some suggestions for your idea:



Substitute

Combine

Adapt

Modify

Magnify/Minify

Put to Other Uses

Eliminate

Reverse

Rearrange

Solving the USPO Problem

Now that you have an idea, your job is to create a product which will share that idea with others - **clearly** and **convincingly**.

Your Task:

You have **40 minutes** to make a product which represents your idea. You must complete your product within that time. Be prepared to present your idea to the class.

Your product might be:

a model a blueprint a written description

(Be sure to choose a medium which best fits your idea.)

A quality product...

... is neat.

... looks like the maker had a plan before s/he started working.

... delivers a clear idea or message. (labels)

... Shows the important details that help people to understand the idea.