

# HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

---

## **Step 1. Read the Problem (First 2-3 meetings, As needed after)**

Go through each section of the problem

Make sure each participant understands what is required

General ideas are OK, but don't focus on Brainstorming solutions yet

Understand how each of the parts interact

Figure out the requirements of the problem (and the scoring elements)

## **Step 2. Brain-Storm Possible Solutions (Meetings 2-5)**

Generate lots of ideas (keep track of them)

Don't evaluate them yet... just keep track of them

Break the problem down into manageable pieces

Encourage wild, creative solutions

## **Step 3. SCAMPER (Meetings 4-6)**

Use the SCAMPER technique to come up with more ideas

Change the ideas, generate even more

## **Step 4. Evaluate Ideas (Meetings 4-6)**

Which ideas does the team like best.

Evaluate, but don't criticize.

Select a preliminary solution.

# HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

---

## **Step 5. Determine Tasks & Timeline (Meetings 5-8)**

What types of tasks, skills, props, contraptions, needed to complete this solution?  
Who and how will they do these things?  
Determine a basic time-line for completing the solution.  
Continue to evaluate the solution and refine/revise as needed.  
Do the items decided upon fit the problem specifications?

## **Step 6. Begin Construction (Meetings 6- )**

Start building things and writing a script.  
Revise/refine (continuously) and as necessary.

## **Step 7. Put it Together**

As props, tasks are near completion, or are completed, test them out.  
Continue to refine/revise.  
Does the proposed solution fit the problem?

## **Step 8. Finish it Up and Practice (2-3 Meetings Before Tourn)**

Celebrate major accomplishments as they happen.  
Test things out... do they work? Can they work better?  
Practice the whole skit. Timing.  
What happens if something goes wrong?  
Revise/refine.