Problem Solving And Critical Thinking

1.5: Interpreting Information Gathered From A Problem.Tree

Topic

Ordering numbers.

Specific Outcome

Able to interpret and analyse gathered information.

Lesson Objective

By the end of the lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Identify information needed to understand a topic.
2. Create links between the causes of a problem.
3. Determine the effect this has on an individual.

Materials Needed

- Paper
- Pencils
- Story: *Koko Shares Her Secret* (one copy per group)
- Problem Tree illustration
- Board
- Optional: Large sheet of paper (for Reflect activity)

Methodology

- Start: Group Brainstorming
- Learn: Group Activity
- Reflect: Problem Tree & Class Discussion

Duration

40 minutes

Note For The Teacher

Prior to the lesson, write the questions/statements listed in the Learn activity out on the board so that the students may refer to them easily. Place the Problem Tree illustration up on the wall where the students can see it easily.

Introduction:

The aim of this lesson is to explain the linkages between an identified problem and the causes and effects that particular problem has on an individual, as shown by the data collated on that problem. This is the start of competency, when it comes to making sense of a problem and documenting it. Data regarding a problem is only useful and worthwhile if it is interpreted in such a way so as to help guide decision–making and give direction. The interpretation must be clearly presented.

Start

10 m

1. Have the students form groups of six to eight, and give each group a sheet of paper and pencil.

2. Ask each group to brainstorm a list of as many things that they can think of that cause students their age feel embarrassed. Explain that the group that comes up with the longest list will win a round of applause!

3. After five minutes, ask each group to present their list.

Learn

20 m

1. Ask the groups to remain in their groups, and assign one student from each group to be the group 'reader'.

2. Give each reader a copy of the story, *Koko Shares Her Secret*.

3. Ask them to read the story to their fellow group members, and ask the other students to listen carefully, as they will need to recognise key issues and be prepared to recall important facts and respond to questions afterwards.

4. Once they have heard the story, collect the story sheets from the readers, and point out the questions/statements written out on the board (below) to the students.

5. Ask them to work within their groups to complete each statement or answer each question (give the groups more paper if necessary).

   - The issue being addressed is…
   - Answer: …that Koko told her friend a secret, but the friend did not keep the secret.
   - The problem was…
   - Answer: …that Koko was hungry.
   - Why was Koko hungry?
   - Answer: Koko did not have enough food to eat.
   - What did Koko tell Jojo?
   - Answer: Koko told Jojo she was hungry.
   - What happened next?
   - Answer: Jojo told the others. [The cause of the problem.]
   - What was the result?
   - Answer: Koko was embarrassed, and Jojo was sad. [The effect of the problem.]

- What happened to their friendship?
- Answer: Koko and Jojo were not friends anymore.
- Some good, however, did come out of the whole situation. State some.
- Answer: Koko did end up getting food, and Jojo got his friend back.

6. Once they have done this, lead the students into a discussion with the following question:

- What can we learn from Koko's story?

7. Be sure that the following points are covered and discussed:

- That people should keep promises and secrets, unless their secret is putting their (or someone else's) health or safety at risk.
- If people do share someone's secret, they must inform that person and explain why they need to do so.
- People should apologise to each other.
- People should forgive one another.

Reflect

10 m

1. Inform the students that they will work as a class to create a Problem Tree that represents the problem in *Koko Shares Her Secret*. Show the Problem Tree illustration to the students and explain each element.

2. Draw a large tree on the board or a large piece of paper (or have volunteer students do so).

3. Write the main problem down the trunk of the tree. Label each root with one of the causes of the problem (include as many as possible), and the branches with all the effects of the problem.

4. While you work on the Problem Tree, lead the students into a discussion, using the following questions:

- Were you able to understand and interpret the problem? Why? How?
- What is the main lesson that you learnt from this activity? Why?
- If a friend started acting upset with you and didn't tell you why, how could you find out the cause of the problem?
- When might it be appropriate to share someone's secret?

Note: This is the ideal opportunity to discuss the importance of telling a responsible adult if a friend's health or safety is at risk. An example of this would be if they share a secret about being abused.

Applying Learning In My Life

Encourage the students to create a Problem Tree with their friends or family about a problem that he/she is currently facing. Have him/her then think about various solutions together with his/her friends/family to improve the situation.

Koko Shares Her Secret

Koko had told her classmate, Jojo, that she had not have enough food to eat and was hungry. She asked Jojo not to tell anybody because Koko wanted this to be a secret. However, Jojo did not keep Koko's secret, and he told others.

Koko was angry with Jojo over this, and ended up breaking up their friendship. Koko got scared and embarrassed, and kept away from everybody. She accused Jojo of not being responsible and respectful.

This made Jojo sad. Jojo tried to apologise to Koko, but she refused to accept the apology. Koko was unforgiving. This made Koko feel really sad.

Later, their friends intervened and they made up. Jojo made a promise to always keep others' secrets unless a friend was in danger or hurt. A plan was created for Koko to have lunch in school.

All ended well. Koko was no longer hungry. Jojo and Koko were friends again, and everybody was happy.