

ANTI-PROBLEM

When students are totally stuck or in a rut while in the process of developing ideas related to the driving question, have them try addressing the anti-problem - the question that is the opposite of what they are exploring.

BY UTILIZING THIS SIMPLE TECHNIQUE YOUR STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE SOME CREATIVE AND UNIQUE INSIGHTS AND IDEAS.

DIRECTIONS:

Explain to the students that today they will be working on the Anti-Problem - the opposite of the driving question that they are currently exploring.

For example, if your students are exploring how they can make a local body of water clean so that the community can enjoy it, you would have the students think about how they could make the water as awful as possible so that no one would want to go near it.

Have the Anti-Problem question written where it is visible to all of the students within the group. Give the students various supplies (e.g. paper, pipe-cleaners, glue, scissors, markers, etc.) and tell them that their team has 15 - 20 minutes to develop a solution to the Anti-Problem that you presented to them.

After groups have finished developing their solutions (or time has run out) have each group present out their solution.

Once done, discuss with the students any insights or ideas that might have occurred to them as they were creating or listening to a solution to the Anti-Problem. How could those insights and ideas influence solutions to the driving question they are exploring?

