

Skill 37: Develop Solutions

Students will be able to (SWBAT):

1. Define the skill *Develop Solutions* and identify why the skill is important.
2. Develop a plan to improve their own proficiency in the skill *Develop Solutions*.

Provided Materials: Skill 37: *Develop Solutions* – Development Plan

Skill Definition: *Develop Solutions* means creating a solution to eliminate a problem or ameliorate its negative effects.

Warm Up Brainstorm (5-10 minutes): Write the skill definition on the board for students to copy in their notes. Ask them to share examples of problems they feel are impossible to eliminate. Provide some background for students on this skill by sharing the following notes with students:

- Problems may not always be able to be eliminated completely but can have their negative effects reduced.
- Drawing on previous solutions often creates new solutions, but it is also important to combine these borrowed ideas with unique ideas pertaining to the problem at hand.
- Identifying a problem and then coming up with a solution to present simultaneously is perceived as being proactive by employers, so the two skills go hand-in-hand.

Guided Activity (20-25 minutes): Present the students with this problem:

Problem: Students are too loud in the hallways during class time, even with doors closed.

Evidence: 27 out of 36 teachers have to leave their rooms during their class time to reprimand students/shuffle them off to class in order to make the hallways quiet enough for them to teach their lessons.

Divide the class into groups of four or five students and challenge them to come up with three possible solutions to the problem. They should remember that the point is to reduce the negative effects of the problem even if it can't be completely eliminated. Once groups have come up with their three solutions, allow them time for discussion as to which solution best addresses the problem and is most realistic. Ask for groups to share their best solutions, and try to be a little critical of their ideas. Don't be unfairly harsh, but emphasize the point that it is *difficult* to come up with good solutions to problems. If it were easy, the problems wouldn't still exist, right?

For the last few minutes of class, ask students to discuss why they think this skill is necessary in the real world. Ask if they can imagine possible situations when they will have to solve identified problems in the futures, either personally or professionally.

Independent Practice (5-10 minutes): Students complete the **Skill 37: *Develop Solutions* – Development Plan**.

Evaluation: Assess the quality of the plans completed by the students and provide feedback using Part Three of this manual; compare to the responses they gave for Skill 37 in their initial **Student Skills Assessment**.

Extension Activity:

- Create competitions in the classroom that require students to come up with the best solutions to identified problems, either by themselves or in groups. Remember to be critical so they understand how difficult it is to come up with good solutions. This is a particularly useful exercise when specific problems arise in your classroom.

Skill 37: Develop Solutions – Development Plan

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Give yourself a rating of 1, 2, 3, or 4 in this skill, with 1 indicating poor proficiency and 4 indicating excellence in the skill. Provide evidence for your rating.

Rating: _____

Evidence:

Where do you want to be in six months and how will you measure your progress?

List academic and non-academic activities to help you achieve your goal in six months, using the back of this page if necessary. Each activity should be a specific academic experience, class, community service project, extra-curricular activity, internship or job. List them in order from the most important to the least important.
