

Seven-Step Problem Solving Method

Adapted from Randall Knight

1. Read the problem.
2. Draw a picture or pictures including a coordinate system.
3. Write down the known quantities and assign them a unique variable.
4. Write down the unknown quantities and assign them a unique variable.
5. Write down any potentially relevant equations.
6. Solve.
7. Does the answer make sense?
 - a. Magnitude (size)
 - b. Sign (+/-)
 - c. Units