PROBLEM SOLVING · DEFINE THE PROBLEM

Ten Questions First

Slow down before you solve the wrong problem.

Name _____

Date _____

THE PROBLEM, AS IT ARRIVED

write it in the words it reached you in — before you change anything about it

TEN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROBLEM

no answers until all ten are written

who · since when · how often · compared to what · what's being assumed — no solutions

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

these are the ones you'd have skipped — and usually the ones that matter

THE PROBLEM, RESTATED

now that the easy answers have run out — what is the problem actually?

☐ **It's a different problem from the one I started with — the ten questions did their job.**

Ten questions before the first answer.

Questions about the problem, not the solution · no fixes until all ten are written · ten isn't a round number — it's the point where your first assumption runs out.

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