

Figure 11.2: Path to Problem Solving Documentation Log

Name: _____

Lab partners: _____

Graphic	Steps
	<p>1. Select a focus.</p> <p>Make sure you understand the situation and clarify the specific problem. When you do so, you are using both your metacognitive knowledge and metacognitive regulation.</p> <hr/> <p>Date:</p> <p>SELF-questions: What are we trying to do or find out? What problem are we trying to solve?</p>
	<p>2. Gather information.</p> <p>As you gather information, you are using your metacognitive knowledge about yourself, about the task or problem you are facing, and possibly your knowledge about strategy.</p> <hr/> <p>Date:</p> <p>SELF-questions: What information is important? What do we already know? What is similar or different? (Include sources.)</p>
	<p>3. Brainstorm (for ideas).</p> <p>Generate lots of ideas using your creativity. Not all of your ideas will work, and that's OK. Here, you are just getting your ideas down. Note that as you do, you're using both your metacognitive knowledge about strategy and your regulation of your thinking by planning. So, you're using both components of metacognition at the same time.</p> <hr/> <p>Date:</p> <p>SELF-questions: How can we solve this problem or complete this task? What are the pros and cons of each idea?</p>

	<p>4. Evaluate (make a choice).</p> <p>As you answer these questions, you're using your knowledge about strategies in general while you engage in planning which one will work best in this situation.</p> <hr/> <p>Date:</p> <p>SELf-questions: Which is the best option? Why have we chosen this one?</p>
	<p>5. Plan and act (and observe).</p> <p>In this step, you're adding monitoring to the other types of metacognition that you've already engaged in. You're monitoring your own thinking processes as you carry out your plan. You're deciding whether or not your plan is working.</p> <hr/> <p>Date:</p> <p>SELf-questions: What steps will we take? Is it working? How do we know?</p>
	<p>6. Reflect.</p> <p>If it worked, great! Think of ways to improve it further. If it did not work, that's great too! Brainstorm again and pick another solution.</p> <p>In this step, we're regulating our thinking again. The difference is that this time we're doing so after the process is complete. Notice how we both monitor our thinking while we're carrying out our plan. When we're finished, we evaluate and reflect on what we've done.</p> <hr/> <p>Date:</p> <p>SELf-questions: What worked well or didn't work? Do we need to go back and try again? What might we do differently?</p>