Performance Indicators for Problem Solving:

A. Observe and evaluate situations in order to define problems.
B. Frame questions, make predictions, and design data collection and analysis strategies.
C. Identify and analyze patterns, trends, and relationships in the data or information.
D. Based on analysis of the data or information, generate options and use evidence to build a case for the best response.
E. Identify opportunities for innovation and collaboration.
F. Evaluate the available tools, including technology, and select one to address the problem.
G. Persist in solving challenging problems, adapting strategies and approaches as needed.

Task Model

Any performance task (within any subject area) that aims to assess Problem Solving must give students opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in Performance Indicators A-D. Assessment of Performance Indicators E-G could be achieved through reflections on process steps and decisions made in completing the task. (Assessment of Performance Indicators E-G could, alternatively, be achieved through student reflections on other areas of their lives.) Any Performance Assessment that is designed to elicit student work that will allow the student to demonstrate proficiency in Problem Solving must include these elements:

The task must be open-ended & lend itself to many possible solutions.

In the final product....

- The student defines the problem that he or she is addressing. (Performance Indicator A).
- The student explains his/her research questions, how he or she searched for/gathered information/data and his/her own research. (Performance Indicator B).
- The student interprets, evaluates, and analyzes data/information. (Performance Indicators C & D).
- The student evaluates the effectiveness of several solutions, synthesizes findings to make a claim about the best proposed solution, and supports his/her choice with evidence. (Performance Indicator D).
- The student describes how he or she worked within real-world constraints, sought opportunities for innovation, and modified the approach when things did not work at first. (Performance Indicators E & G).
- The student must explain how and why they selected digital or other tools to help them address the problem. (Performance Indicator F).