

Basic Problem Solving Strategy—Short form

A. Determine the problem to be solved. I.e., read the question and think about what is going on.

B. Draw a picture indicating the physics at work and incorporate a free-body diagram into it.

C. Decompose vectors

D. Determine what sort of tools you will need, get them from the “toolchest,” and set up the equations

E. Do the math and think about the result.