

Note: TAG instruction occurs one day a week for each student. These plans are meant to replace the time that would be spent on core learning activities (reading, ELA/writing, math, social studies/science) for that one day each week. Students should still complete activities for specials classes (art, music, PE) on their TAG day.

Subject: TAG
Grade: 4th

Week 4: Sept 7-Sept 11

Standard	<p>SS4E2 Identify the elements of a personal budget (income, expenditures, and saving) and explain why personal spending and saving decisions are important.</p> <p>Creative Thinking and Problem Solving</p> <p>2. The student designs, applies, evaluates, and adapts a variety of innovative strategies to when problem solving (e.g., recognizes problems, defines problems, identifies possible solutions, selects optimal solution, implements solution, and evaluates solution).</p> <p>3. The student incorporates brainstorming and other idea-generating techniques (synectics, SCAMPER, etc.) to solve problems or create new products.</p>
Brief Description	<p>Students will participate in a creative problem-solving activity by reading a messy situation and using a provided template to develop a plan to solve the problem.</p>

Student Directions:

- Complete the Brain Teaser.
- Complete the Creative Thinking Challenge.
- Read the More \$\$\$ Messy Situation.
- Complete the Circle of Viewpoints Routine.
- Finally Use the Template provided to develop a plan for increasing your weekly income.
- Send all your work to your teacher.

Brain Teaser (Strategy: Make an Organized List)

On Saturday afternoon Mike and his friends are trying to decide what to do. They are going to bike, walk, or go by skateboard to the park. They can go swimming, play catch, or fly a kite at the park. Then they will go get ice cream, popcorn, or a soda. What are all the different plans Mike and his friends can make for Saturday afternoon?

Creativity Challenge: Drop Everything!

1. Select some items to drop on a blank piece of paper. (examples of thing to drop are toothpicks, pennies, paperclips, buttons, pasta, dried beans, twigs, pine straw, etc...)
2. Hold the items about 8-12 inches above the paper and then let go.
3. Once the items are dropped do not move them. Secure the items down with glue or tape.
4. Once items are secured look at the paper from all angles and imagine what these pieces could be. Are they many pieces of the same thing or are they parts belonging to one larger thing?
5. Use pencil, colored pencil, marker, etc... to add details to the paper to show the vision created by these dropped items.
6. Add a creative title.

***Note: The final picture should **NOT** be the original items representing what they really are. For example, if you use buttons the final picture should **NOT** be a clothing items with buttons. Instead the buttons might be eyes, wheels, balloons, or turtles!

Creative Problem Solving



MORE \$\$\$



Messy Situation

Everything seems to cost more these days! You have decided that you need more money, and a substantial increase in your weekly allowance would be just great. Last week, you put in a request to your parents for the additional money, but they refused. Since they believe an increase is not necessary, they politely refused your polite request for the money. They may be right, but you've decided that, if you had a better plan, you might have a greater chance of success in getting the raise.

Your challenge, then, is to find a really new and effective way to increase your weekly income by the amount that you requested for the increase in your allowance. This doesn't have to be a plan for getting a raise in your allowance, of course. That's only one way to look at the situation. Your goal in this challenge is simply a greater weekly income.

To deal with this Mess, you may have to look at some things in new and different ways, not just asking your parents for more money. You should consider your goals, needs, and many ways to increase your income. Your Plan of Action should be very specific (not just, "I'll get a job after school").

You're trying to develop a plan for increasing your weekly income by a certain amount you've set as your goal (or maybe by even more than your minimum goal). Good thinking! (If you're a huge success with your plan, will we all get a commission?)



Circle of Viewpoints

1. I AM THINKING OF...*how I can increase my weekly allowance...*FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF...*your parents.*

2. I THINK...*describe the topic from your parents' viewpoint. Be an actor—take on the character of your viewpoint.*

3. A QUESTION I HAVE FROM THIS VIEWPOINT IS...*ask a question from your parents' viewpoint.*

Messy Situation Template

DATA

KNOW	NEED OR WANT TO KNOW

PROBLEM

Use the data you uncovered to make several possible problem statements.

In What Ways Might Or How Might

Choose a problem statement that you can use to generate many, interesting, and unusual ideas. **In what ways might**_____.

IDEA

From your problem statement, generate as many ideas as you can.

SOLUTION

Think of several criteria to use to help you compare, improve, or evaluate your ideas. Write your criteria here:

Choose the most important criteria, then use them to analyze your ideas. What ideas (or combination of ideas) are most promising?

ACCEPTANCE

Use the questions “Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?” to help you turn your most promising ideas into useful ones.

Assisters	Resisters

PLAN OF ACTION

Now, write out your Plan. Be as specific and detailed as possible.

1. (24-hour step)
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.