

# Student Problem Solving Tips

**You may use manipulatives or a calculator to work on your problem.**

To receive the highest score in each of the five areas, you will want to be certain your work SHOWS each of these parts of a successful solution.

## 1. Making Sense of the Task

- I turned important information into numbers, symbols and/or diagrams.
- The mathematics I used fits the problem.
- If possible, I showed connections and/or extended my work to other math ideas.*

## 2. Representing and Solving the Task

- I used strategies that fit the problem.
- I showed all my work (diagrams, pictures, models, numbers, symbols and/or words).
- If possible, I was able to make generalizations and/or compare my work to other ways the task could have been completed.*

## 3. Communicating Reasoning

- The path leading through my complete solution has no gaps for the reader to fill in.
- I used mathematical language/labels appropriately.
- My answer is clearly identified.
- If possible, I used graphics and/or examples to enhance my work.*

## 4. Accuracy

- My final answer is complete and justified.
- The work shown on my paper leads to my answer.
- If possible, I extended my solution by asking new questions leading to new problems.*

## 5. Reflecting and Evaluating

- My solution matches what the problem was asking.
- I reviewed ALL of my work (interpretation of the problem, concepts, strategies, and calculations) to show that my answer makes sense and it is correct.
- If possible, I worked the entire problem a second way.*

## RECAP:

Show your answer and all of your work  
so everything is clear to the reader