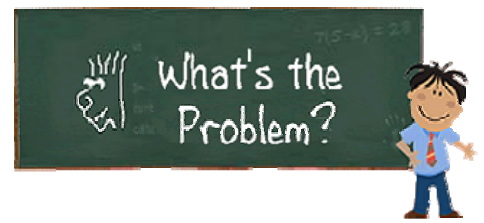


# Teacher Instructions:



**Problem Scenario:** “Starting Off Right!”

**The Main Problem:** *At the start of every year, many people make New Year’s Resolutions in hopes of improving their lives and becoming better people. Unfortunately, most people fail with these resolutions. Given this fact, are New Year’s Resolutions a good idea, or are they harmful? If you do make a Resolution, what is the best strategy to make it positive and successful?*

Your students will be viewing this problem from an **integrated** perspective.



## Are New Year’s Resolutions a good thing?

*Students will view positive and negative opinions about New Year’s Resolutions, as well as proper strategies for making them.*

### Step 1 Review Stimulus Items

- Stimulus Item #1 — All about New Year’s Resolutions (infographic)
- Stimulus Item #2— “Why Resolutions are Important” (article A)
- Stimulus Item #3— “New Year’s Resolutions are Bad” (article B)

*A low-readability option has been provided so students in lower grades can participate in this problem scenario*

#### ALTERNATE Stimulus and Activity for Lower Grades — “Ideas for New Year’s Resolutions” (list)

*\*\*Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items*

### Step 2 Classroom Discussion

Lead a **class discussion** about issues related to the topic. You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

### Step 3 Student Response

**Extended Responses:** Have students answer the following questions. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

1. Is making a New Year’s Resolution a positive or negative practice? Defend your answer.
2. What is the best strategy for making a New Year’s Resolution that will produce a positive outcome?

*\*\*\*students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers*

*\*\*\*students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers*

**EXTENDED PRODUCT (Optional):** Divide your students into groups, and have them take on the role of “**Life Coaches.**” It is their job to help people improve their lives and become as happy and productive as they can be. Each group is going to **design a brochure** called, “*New Year’s Resolutions.*” This brochure will explain to their clients how a resolution can help—or hurt—their overall quest for life improvement, and give tips for making and following through with those resolutions in a way that will have the most positive results.

### Step 4 Analysis

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards.