PROBLEM SOLVING QUESTIONS

The following questions can be used to guide the problem solving process with students.

To Help Develop Student Sensitivity to Social and Moral Problems

- What is the problem in this situation? How do you know that there is a problem?
- What might be the emotions or feelings of everyone in the situation?
- Is there a rule that is being broken?
- Is someone likely to get hurt or have his or her feelings hurt?

To Help Determine What One *Ought* to Do

- What should you do? What is the *right* thing to do?
- How do you determine the right thing to do – or what one *ought* to do?
- Will everyone involved think it is right and fair?
- What actions might show respect of the rights and welfare of others?
- What might be the consequences if you did what you ought to do? If you didn't?
- What choice would be consistent with the Golden Rule of treating others as you would like them to treat you?

Questions to Help Students Decide among Alternatives and Choose What They Ought to Do

- What did you do the last time there was a problem like this one? Did it solve the problem or make the matter worse? Should you do the same thing, or do you need to think more about this situation?
- What are all of the alternative solutions to the problem?
- Which solutions are most likely to "work"?
- Which solutions are consistent with what you ought to do? Which ones are not?
- What do you do when what you *want* to do is not the same as what you *ought* to do?

Questions to Help Students Do What They Actually Decided to Do

- Do you need a plan to do what you decided to do? If so, what might it look like?
- What might help motivate you to do what you ought to do – what thoughts and feelings might help?
- Who might help you, and in what ways?
- What obstacles might get in the way of your doing what you ought to do and intend to do?
- What might you do to avoid or overcome these obstacles? What will you do if you face them?