

Proper Problem Solving Technique

- Step 1:** Write down what you *know*.
- Express with symbols and numerical values with units.
 - If “mixed” units (English ⇔ Metric) in the problem (in what you are given **or** in your needed answer), convert all units to the METRIC system.
 - Helpful hint:
 - Volume → cm^3
 - Area → cm^2
 - Length → cm
- Step 2:** Write down what you are *trying to find out*.
- Label with a symbol and needed units.
- Step 3:** What formula(s) can you use?
- Write down the equation(s) you will need.
 - Using algebra, make the unknown on *one side* of the equation.
- Step 4:** Use the formula and be sure to **UNITS** with all numbers.
- Step 5:** Look at your answer - be sure your answer is in the units asked for in the problem.
- Does your answer make sense?