

# GET THE JOB

## Becoming the Problem Solver

Become the Go-To Person Employers Rely On In the Workplace

In any workplace, problem solvers stand out. They're the ones people turn to when something breaks, a deadline is looming or a new challenge arises.

Building a reputation as someone who finds solutions — not just points out problems — can set you apart and open doors to career growth.

Here's how to develop a solutions-focused mindset and become known as a reliable, resourceful contributor.

### TAKE INITIATIVE AND STAY CURIOUS

Problem solvers don't wait for instructions. They take initiative. That starts with being alert to inefficiencies, bottlenecks or recurring issues in your day-to-day work.

When you notice a problem, think through possible solutions before bringing it up. Approaching your manager with both the issue and a proposed fix shows foresight and professionalism.

Curiosity is another trait strong problem solvers share. Ask questions to understand how systems work and why things are done a certain way.

This kind of thinking can uncover smarter, faster or more cost-effective methods

that others may overlook. Over time, your ability to identify and address these issues will build trust with coworkers and managers alike.

### FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS, NOT BLAME

When challenges arise, it's easy to fall into the trap of blame or frustration. But problem solvers shift quickly into solution mode.

Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, they ask, "What

can we do to fix this?" or "How can we prevent this from happening again?"

Maintaining a calm, constructive approach — especially under pressure — demonstrates leadership and earns respect. It also helps build a team culture that values collaboration and continuous improvement.

Being part of the solution, rather than just pointing out what's broken, shows that you're invested in the organiza-

tion's success.

### COMMUNICATE CLEARLY AND FOLLOW THROUGH

A good idea isn't much use if no one understands it. To build your reputation, it's important to explain your ideas clearly and back them up with data or examples.

Whether you're offering a small suggestion or proposing a major change, help others see the value of your solution.

Once a plan is in motion, fol-

low through. Track results, adjust as needed and share successes with your team. Reliability is key. People remember who helped fix a problem and whether they delivered on their promises.

Over time, a pattern of thoughtful action, calm under pressure and strong follow-through will earn you a reputation as someone who gets things done. In a world full of challenges, that's a skill every employer values.



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