

TEACHING ELEMENTS

WIKI ACTIVITY: PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

VERSION 1.0 | 7/3/14

DESCRIPTION:

Create a “Problem of the Week” wiki in which students provide solutions to problems that are posted weekly by the instructor. In addition to posting a solution, students must also explain their approach to solving the problem.

PURPOSE:

This activity will encourage students to:

- Develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Generate ideas, questions, examples, and explanations for a number of complex problems
- Analyze and assess the various methods and approaches presented by one another that can be used to solve the same problem

ACTIVITY STEPS:

1. The instructor posts a ‘weekly’ problem related to the topic or concept covered in class during the week.
2. When a student posts a solution to the problem, invite other students to comment on their approach, method, or formula.
3. Additional students who post an approach, method, or formula must also comment on why their way of solving the problem is different or better than those previously posted.
4. Even if all options to solving the problem have been exhausted by a certain number of students, others can still contribute by answering questions raised by others.

TIPS FOR THIS ACTIVITY:

- Consider setting up the wiki space so that each problem is a “sub” or “child” page to the main “Problem of the Week” space.
- Consider posting two problems each week to give students more options for applying their solutions.

Experiment with how you might utilize simple wiki [macros \(link\)](#) in order to format the “problem” page so that students can clearly embed their solutions, questions, and comments directly on the wiki page as compared to posting solutions and comments under the Add Comment link at the bottom of each wiki page.