

▶ FIGURE IT OUT

OBJECTIVE

Students will think about how to solve abstract and challenging situations using critical thinking skills. Students should utilize the critical thinking technique found on page 28.

TIME

25 Minutes (20 minutes for the activity, 5 minutes for the discussion)

MATERIALS

Copies of the *Sudoku Puzzle*, see page 33.

ACTIVITY

Group the students into teams of three individuals and provide copies of the puzzle to each team. Many will be familiar with Sudoku puzzles but review the objective. Fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. You may select student observers to serve in a leadership role and record any comments and conversation from the team regarding critical thinking.

DISCUSSION POINTS

When the activity is over you can review the answers as provided on the answer key below. Did any of you get frustrated when working on this puzzle as a group? Did any of you want to work on the project alone and then come to agreement on the project? Sometimes you are “setup” to work in teams but it may be best to use individual critical thinking skills and then come together when one has reached a solution. Are there any examples of solutions you are working towards within TSA events where it might be more efficient to have one individual utilize critical thinking skills and solve the problem for the rest of the group?

ANSWER KEY

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

HANDOUT FOR FIGURE IT OUT

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8				6		
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Sudoku Puzzle: Source is Wikipedia.com