

Title: Solving Number Problems: Healing the Achilles' Heel of Pupils.

Aim: To encourage students to be thinkers not just calculators, by bridging the divide between critical thinking and operations. The traditional procedure presents students the problem (context), and requires them to write the operation in order to find the solution. Our suggestion is to provide pupils the operation together with alternative prompts (e.g., non-words, sketches) and ask pupils to design the context. Humor, productive mathematic discussions and playfulness are at the core of this approach.

Target Audience: Teachers of primary education, SEN Teachers, Mathematicians, Undergraduate math and Special education students.

Conclusions: This workshop aims at changing the mindset / way the participants teach problem-solving. One should choose between the "blue pill" and continue to be unproductive following the exact structure and procedures of textbooks, or the "red pill" and become a math innovator; giving classroom the math experience everyone deserves in order to delve into the magical world of mathematics.

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