

to assess the risks and rewards of the choices we make when we make them. Some seem obvious, others not so much.

Pros and Cons Worksheet for Evaluating Proposed Solutions

Here is a sample Pros and Cons Worksheet for Ashley's math dilemma:

PROBLEM: ASHLEY IS NOT READY FOR HER MATH TEST

Proposed Solutions	Pros	Pros How important?	Cons	Cons How important?
		(1 - 5 - 5 is most important)		(1 - 5 - 5 is most important)
Do nothing	Lots of free time	1	Will flunk the test; my parents will be upset; I will feel bad about myself	5
Do math homework	Do math homework May gain understanding	4	Takes time and there is no guarantee	2
Pay attention in math class	May gain understanding	4	None, except there is no guarantee that I will understand	2

Proposed Solutions	Pros	Pros How important?	Cons	Cons How important?
Ask a friend who knows the material to study together	Get to spend time with my friend; also, will gain understanding	5	None I can think of unless she doesn't understand as well as I hope she does	1
Go to math lab after school and get a free tutor	I will spend time and learn from someone who I know understands the math; it is free; my parents will be proud that I took this step	5	I must stay after school	2

Looking at the table above, the best solutions and combination of solutions have the highest ranking of Pros (numbers 5 and close to 5) and the lowest ranking of Cons (numbers 1 and close to 1). Based on Ashley's ranking of possible solutions and combinations of solutions, what should she do? Remember, sometimes it is a combination of solutions that gets the best results.
