

## 1.3 – Problem Solving Strategies

(from “How to Solve It” by George Polya)

- I. Understand the Problem
  - Read the directions! (If you don't know where you're going, you'll never get there)
  - Identify the unknown
  
- II. Devise a Plan
  - Consider inductive reasoning to uncover a pattern
  - Working Backwards
  - Trial and Error
  
- III. Execute the Plan
  - If the answer seems too obvious, slow down and make sure you haven't overlooked any information
  - If you hit a roadblock, don't be discouraged about starting over
  
- IV. Look Back
  - Does your answer make sense within the context of the problem?
  - Can you check your answer?