

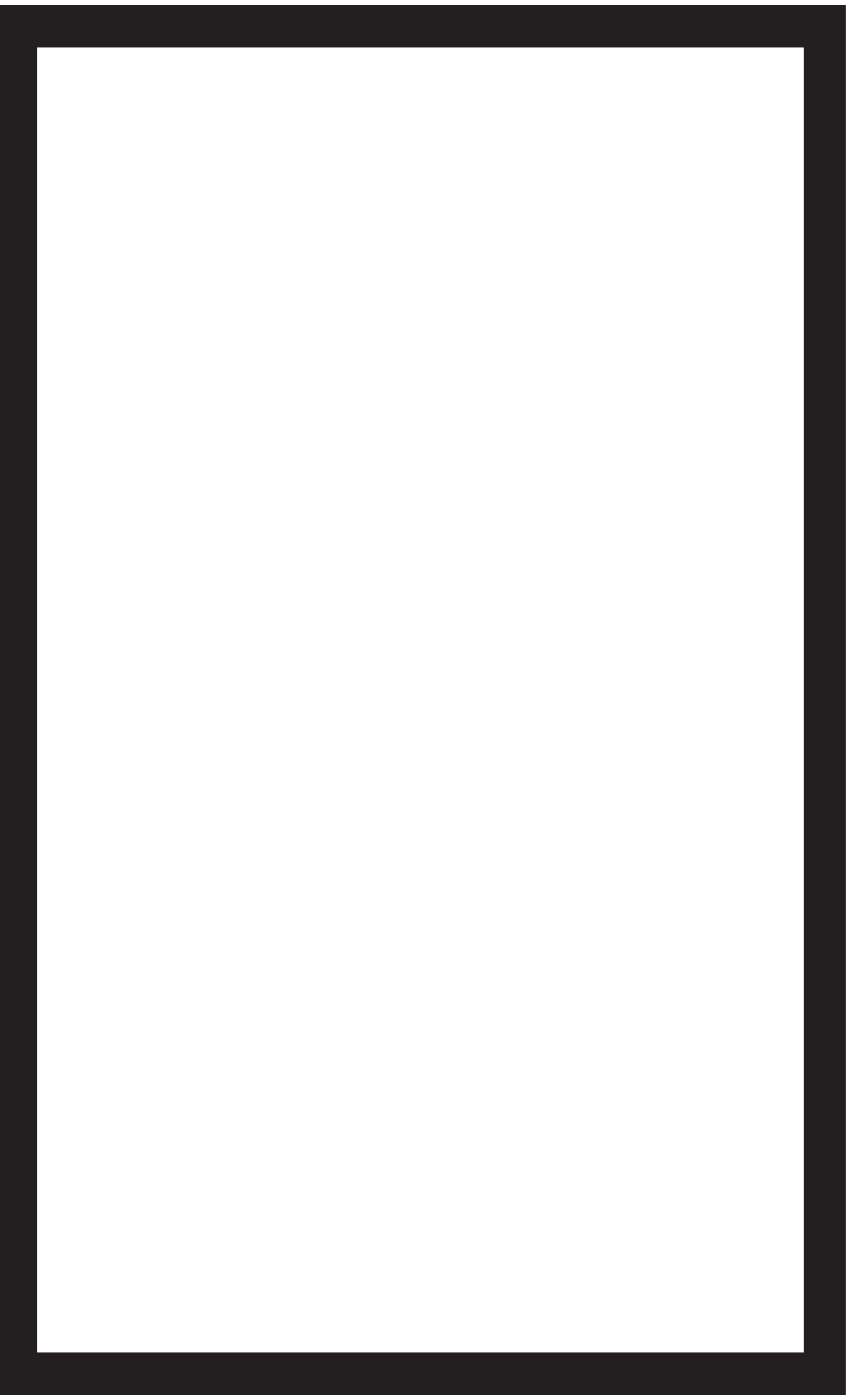
Action-based Problem Solving

Primary Division



STUDENT ACTION BOOKLET

Step 1: Identify Challenges ... *brainstorming areas of concern*



JOT BOARD

Place the **Jot Board** in the *middle of the group*. All group members should write their ideas on the **Jot Board** - even upside down and sideways. Identify as many problems as you can think of by **jotting** them down on the **Jot Board**. Simple phrases, words, symbols, or drawings are fine. All ideas, including *wild* and *crazy* ones, should be included on the **Jot Board**. **Circle** the five or six problems that your team thinks present the biggest challenges.

Step 2: Select an Underlying Problem ***... recognizing and/or stating the most significant problem***

Primary teams have the option of using the Underlying Problem provided or creating their own. If you choose to use the sample Underlying Problem, brainstorm your solutions based on the Underlying Problem found at the bottom of the Fuzzy Challenge and write it in the box below.

Creating Your Own Underlying Problem:

When working with the fairy tale Fuzzies - or if the class chooses to write its own Underlying Problem on the semester topic - the class must determine its own Underlying Problem. Begin by looking back at the **circled** problems in Step 1. Have the class discuss and decide which challenge, if overcome, would have the greatest impact on the situation presented. Discuss the Four "I's." The problem area the class chooses will become the basis for its Underlying Problem. The Underlying Problem should be written in a question format:

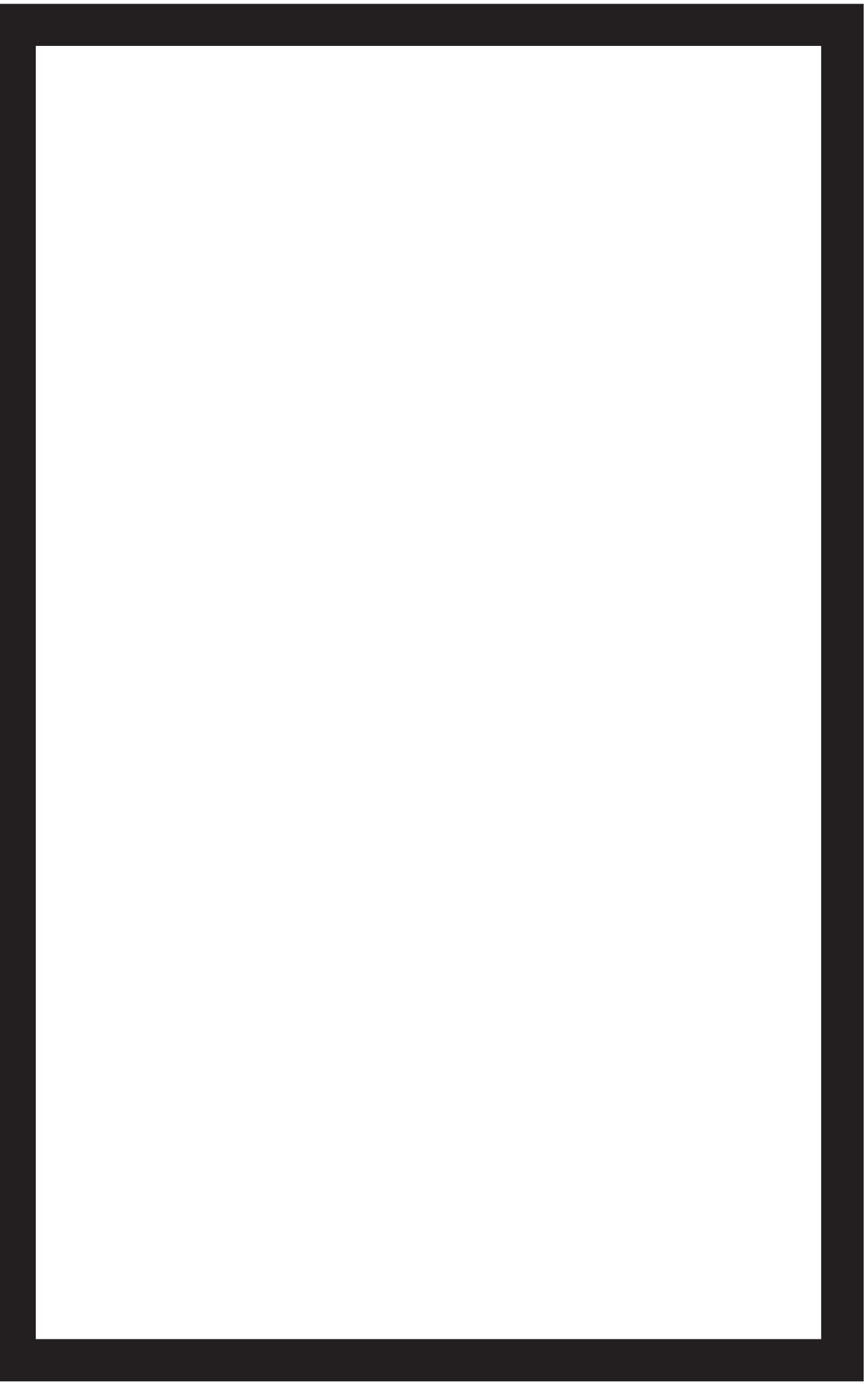
In what ways might we, the (team name-optional), (one Key Verb Phrase which indicates the action you will take) so that (the goal, purpose, or desired outcome)?

Avoid absolute verbs such as prevent, eliminate, or stop as it is nearly impossible to create solutions that totally prevent something from happening. Remember - use only *one* verb in the verb phrase so the **action** the class takes is clearly understood.

Write the Underlying Problem decided upon by the group in the box below:

In what ways might we...

Step 3: Produce Solution Ideas ... *brainstorming the action*



JOT BOARD

Place the **Jot Board** in the *middle of the group*. Brainstorm as many different ways as you can think of to overcome the Underlying Problem identified by your team in Step 2. Include all ideas for action, even *wild* and *crazy* ones, on the Jot Board. **Circle** the 10 solution ideas that your team thinks are the most promising.

Step 4: Generate and Apply Criteria...

using criteria to analyze and evaluate the most promising ideas

Place a phrase describing your top five action ideas on the numbered lines below. Select three of the phrases from the box of criteria examples and list each on the grid. Weigh the benefits of each action idea individually by each criterion. Rank the five action ideas on a scale of 1 to 5. The idea that best fits the criterion receives a rank of 5 and the one that least fits it receives a rank of 1.

Criteria Examples:

Which solution idea will
. . . be the longest lasting?
. . . cost the least?
. . . be the most acceptable to _____?
. . . be the safest?
. . . be the most useful?
. . . cause the least amount of hassle?

1 = Worst Idea
5 = Best Idea

Criteria

List the top 5 ideas below:

	Criteria			TOTAL	
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

Using the criterion, evaluate each idea and enter its rank. Total the ranks for each solution idea and record the score in the total column. Look at the solution ideas with the higher scores. Think about whether any of these could be combined to create a more thorough plan. In the last column, put a check mark next to the two or three solution ideas you think would work well together to create an effective Action Plan.

Step 5: Develop an Action Plan

Look at your highest ranked ideas. Combine those that would work well together and elaborate on them to create your Action Plan. Explain what it is you will do to solve the Underlying Problem. Be specific when writing your plan, listing names, tasks, and time when you can.

What action will be taken? (Use the ideas with a check mark.)

Who will take the action?

How and to whom will you present your plan?

Why is this action important? (What difference will it make?)
