Strategy guide: Math/Science Problem Solving

Technique	Basic idea	When to try it	Reason for using it
Draw a diagram			
Identify key variables			
Work backwards			
Find the trick	Identify what makes the question hard, how it is different from previous questions, or any key facts you know (such as knowing to use certain units).	The question is similar to others you have done but for some reason harder, or you think you know how to do it but it isn't working.	Identifying what it is that makes a question harder lets you focus in on how to resolve that particular aspect; noting key facts helps you remember them.