

Math 210 - Dr. Miller - Activity #1: Identifying Polya's Four Steps

Which of Polya's Four Steps seems to be illustrated most strongly in each instance below? Answer by giving both the step number and its statement in 2-3 words. Then also explain (in a sentence!) why you chose the step you did.

1. Portia is thinking out loud: "I think 823 will show up in the sequence 5, 9, 13, 17, ... because if you count from 5 to 823 without skipping, then you could divide that difference by 4 evenly."
2. Lulu is trying a fraction problem. "I don't know what a lowest common denominator is!" she wails.
3. Benny was asked how many dimes and how many quarters total \$3.50 together. His answer is 19.
4. Petra decides to randomly guess and check to solve the same problem as Benny.