

The video this report is based on can be found at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/hFZFjoX2cGg>

1. The problem identified is that the squirrels in Mark's backyard keep stealing the food meant for the birds. His goal was to build a completely squirrel proof bird feeder after trying three different ones claiming to be. It's hard to tell if this was solved or not because he seems to forget mentioning the birds after beginning to put together his obstrical course. That being the case, I would imagine he'd mention if they were still interested in the bird food after starting the course, and it does seem like it deterred them from the bird food. Given this, I can say that I think he solved his issue.

2. Although the approach is really fun, and seems to be effective overall, it's not practical by any means. As I was watching the video, I kept thinking about how this is now taking up the whole of the backyard, which I can't imagine is part of the goal, and given that I wouldn't use this method. He proved my theory by the end because he did end up dismantling the course, and usign a smaller solution. I thought it was really interesting that he came up with the idea of making the poles slick to prevent the squirrels from starting anywhere but the beginning of the course, so I'm curious if that could be used on a smaller scale, since the squirrels weren't going for the bird food once they were on the stand with it. It seems that his smaller solution also ended up serving its purpose in a way despite being back at the original issue of squirrels being able to open latches because they weren't going after the bird food anymore.

3. Our assignment is to come up with a proposal to a real-life issue in order to find some sort of solution. That is directly related to the video we saw because Mark saw an issue in his immediate world that he wanted to find a solution to. His methodology includes some trial and error at the beginning to see if the problem being faced has a simple solution, but once it's deemed a larger issue, this is when we see a full plan begin to form. His RFP would have been something along the lines of 'Looking to help both birds and squirrels get fed, without disrupting the bird's eating'. He then proposed a solution of giving the squirrels an alternative food to eat, and with that began to design his solution.