“Sadly the world is not at all like those school mathematics problems in which all the information you need is given to you and all you have to do is apply the right process and extract the result.”

Over the years I have noticed a drop in the mathematical and more recently the “thinking” ability of a number of students and it appears that this is a wider trend. This may be a result of changing school curriculums, different background or culture or most likely a combination of factors. Do you agree? What can be done? Where to from here?

“Throughout their education, students are constrained to apply the material from each chapter to solve a few problems given at the end of each chapter. With this type of approach to “problem solving,” it is not surprising that students are ill prepared for framing and addressing real-world problems.”
Zbigniew Michalewicz, Ph.D, “Puzzle Based Learning”, Hybrid Pub., Melb., 2008
accessed Aug. 20, 2008

Life Impact
The University of Adelaide
Contact paul.harris@adelaide.edu.au