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? Give the number and state the step in words. Also explain in a sentence why you chose the answer you did.

1. Portia is thinking out loud: "I think 823 will show up in the sequence $5, 9, 13, 17, \ldots$ because if you count from 5 to 823 without skipping, you can divide that difference by 4.

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 would total $3.50 together. His answer is 19.

4. Petra is randomly guessing and checking to solve the same problem as Benny.