

Five Whys Activity

In a tricky situation and not sure what the root cause of the problem is? Try the Five Whys method. Define the problem, ask 'why' five times to identify the root cause, and then brainstorm solutions for the issue!

1. Define the problem.

2. Ask 'why' five times. First, ask "why is this problem happening?" Then, ask why the answer to that question is happening. Keep asking why of each answer. Each "why" digs deeper until you get to the root cause.

Why? _____

Why? _____

Why? _____

Why? _____

Why? _____

Five Whys Activity (cont'd)

3. State the root cause. The answer to your last “why” is your root cause. A root cause is the fundamental reason you were experiencing the problem.

4. Brainstorm solutions. What are some ways you could fix the problem by tackling the root cause? Will you need help or additional resources?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. Plan your next steps. How will you move forward with solving your problem? Consider [setting goals](#) to make sure your solution comes to life!