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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThe Five Whys Questioning Technique

**Discussion Guide**



**What to do:** Use this guide to record students’ use of the Five Whys technique to identify the root cause of a problem that interests them. Start by recording the problem statement. Then asks five whys to drill down to what’s causing the problem.

**Why it matters:** Knowing the root cause of a problem helps with understanding the audience and defining the right target before brainstorming possible solutions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Problem statement:** |  |
| **Question 1:** | Why… |
| **Answer 1:** |  |
| **Question 2:** | Why… |
| **Answer 2:** |  |
| **Question 3:** | Why… |
| **Answer 3:** |  |
| **Question 4:** | Why… |
| **Answer 4:** |  |
| **Question 5:** | Why… |
| **Answer 5:** |  |
| **Root cause of problem:** |  |

If you do not know how to ask the right question, you discover nothing.

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Description automatically generated— W. Edwards Deming

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