

# Problem Solving Building Blocks

Type of activity: Team Brainstorming

Participants: 6-50

Timing: 15-30 Minutes

Materials: Paper, pens

Additional Cost: \$0

Key themes: Teamwork, Creative thinking



## Instructions:

Practice the art of creative and innovate thinking as a team. Identify a fictional problem that must be solved. It could be a theoretical product, a brain teaser, a riddle, a design challenge — anything that needs a solution.

- Write 1-2 sentences to describe the problem or issue to resolve on a large sheet of paper.
- The team will rotate adding elements to help solve the problem, 1 person at a time.
- The first person will capture a new idea that further builds on a solution that can solve problem identified.
- The team will pass the paper to the person on their left, and instruct them to use the new idea to build another solution upon.
- Each person will write another idea that builds upon the last one captured.
- Continue for several rounds, and then see what the results are. You may want to choose a fictional problem that allows you to reveal one aspect of the challenge each round.

**Debrief:** This activity shows the value of everyone's ideas. As you work as a team, brainstorming sessions often sway towards the vocal and dominant personalities even though other team members have valuable ideas, too. By forcing these ideas to have equal footing, each team member's ability to contribute is established.



*Imagine what's next.*

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