



Lesson: Define & Refine a business idea
Exercise: Writing down a problem statement

Lead In:
Classroom
Online platform

Duration:
10 minutes

Aim:
With the information learned up until this point, the participant is ready to practice and write down a "problem statement" - a comprehensive definition of the problem.

Type of activity:
Define the problem - by writing down a problem statement

Group number:
Individual work or group work in groups of 2-3 participants

Recommended age: 18-29

Instructions

For educator:

With the information in the presentation, the participants will be ready to write down a "problem statement" - a comprehensive definition of the problem. They should define the problem as one everyone shares; avoiding assigning blame for the problem. This is particularly important if different people (or groups) with a history of bad relations need to be working together to solve the problem.

The exercise of defining the problem can be performed in several ways;

The facilitator can write a problem statement on the board, or write in the chat on the online platforms and everyone can give feedback on it until the statement has developed into something everyone is pleased with, or the participants can accept someone else's definition of the problem, or use it as a starting point, modifying it to fit their needs. After they have defined the problem, the educator will ask if everyone understands the terminology being used. The key terms of the problem statement have to be defined.

For user/ interested participant:

After finishing with reading a power point presentation as part of activity, follow the document with directions how to define a problem.

Keywords:
Problem definition
Problem statement

Materials, equipment:

A4 paper
Pens, pencils
Whiteboard
Markers

References:

<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/analyze/analyze-community-problems-and-solutions/define-analyze-problem/main>

Other useful sources:

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/what-is-a-problem-statement>

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.440722!/file/HowtoWriteaProblemStatement.pdf

<https://www.scribbr.com/research-process/problem-statement/>

Annex:

Directions for define a problem