

Innovation-Driven Problem-Solving

In the past few decades, psychologists and business people alike have discovered that successful problem solvers tend to use the same type of process to identify and implement the solutions to their problems. This process works for any kind of problem, large or small.

This workshop will give participants an overview of the entire innovative problem solving process, as well as key problem solving tools that they can use every day. Skills such as brainstorming, information gathering, analyzing data, and identifying resources will be covered throughout the workshop.

Workshop Objectives:

- Understand problems and the innovative problem solving process
- Identify types of information to gather and key questions to ask in problem solving
- Identify the importance of defining a problem correctly
- Identify and use four different problem definition tools
- Write concrete problem statements
- Use basic brainstorming tools to generate ideas for solutions
- Evaluate potential solutions against criteria, including cost/benefit analysis and group voting
- Perform a final analysis to select a solution
- Understand the roles that fact and intuition play in selecting a solution
- Understand the need to refine the shortlist and redefine it
- Understand how to identify the tasks and resources necessary to implement solutions
- Evaluate and adapt solutions to reality



Course Outline:

Module One: Getting Started
 Module Two: The Problem-Solving Method
 Module Three: Information Gathering
 Module Four: Problem Definition
 Module Five: Preparing for Brainstorming
 Module Six: Generating Solutions (I)

Module Seven: Generating Solutions (II)
 Module Eight: Analyzing Solutions
 Module Nine: Selecting a Solution
 Module Ten: Planning Your Next Steps
 Module Eleven: Recording Lessons Learned
 Module Twelve: Wrapping Up