



THINKING STRATEGICALLY

Worksheets for Identifying Relationships, Patterns and Trends

Use this tool to understand relationships, patterns, and trends in seemingly unrelated events and information. This strategic thinking ability can help you generate valuable solutions to problems and organize details into manageable levels.

1. Think of a problem you're experiencing in your group or a difficult decision you're facing. Examples might include increased defection of talented employees, inefficient in a particular proces, and so forth.

2. What ideas have you read or heard about that you might borrow from to address your own situation? Consider practices applied in other companies or industries - event if those settings differ markedly from your own.

3. What changes over time seem to be occurring regarding the issue you're dealing with? For example, is turnover in your group increasing at a steady pace? Rising and then falling? Increasing and then flattening out?

4. What changes in other parts of your organization might be related to your issue? For instance, has the company invested less in professional development program recently? Might that change correspond with increased turnover rates in your group?

5. What might you do to gain a boarder perspective on your issue? Could you participate in more cross-functional task forces to learn more about how changes in different parts of the company affect various units and groups?

6. If you're evaluating a large amount of data while addressing your issue, how might you organize the data into a more manageable form? Look for common themes underlying different pieces of information or events.



[Visit our blog](#)

