



Root Cause Analysis Exercise

Exercise Instructions

The 5 Why's

1. Each participant should find their breakout group. Depending on the size of your team, the number of breakout groups may vary. Each person should put their name in a blue box at the top of a column. This way you can keep track of responses.
2. As a group, decide on a problem statement (health issue) that you would like to address. This may have been determined prior to the activity, or this may be decided now.
3. Step 3: Set a timer for 5 minutes. Ask "why", or what has caused the issue stated immediately above the note you are working on. Add rows as you see necessary.
4. After the timer goes off, set another timer for 5 minutes. Talk with your group about each person's line of thinking, and address any questions. Stop here, or go to the Fishbone Diagram.

Fishbone Diagram

At this point, it is okay if your group has not yet been able to identify the root cause(s) of your problem statement. This section is meant to give a more wholistic view of the problem by understanding the different systems that influence the chosen problem statement. The second part of this activity will assist your team in identifying common themes to begin thinking systemically about your problem statement.

1. Set a timer for 5 minutes. As a group, review responses in Part 1. Develop 3-5 broad categories (ex. policy, education, transportation, healthcare). Label each column.
2. Set a timer for 3 minutes. Organize the causes from Part 1 into a category. Feel free to condense, edit, or further flesh out causes that arose from the 5 Why's activity.
3. Set a timer for 5 minutes. Discuss any common themes, root causes, ideas and questions that your group has developed after categorizing causes.
4. Fishbone Diagram. For each category, identify a focus area. Title each section with a focus area. On the supporting branches, identify contributing causes.

Power Analysis

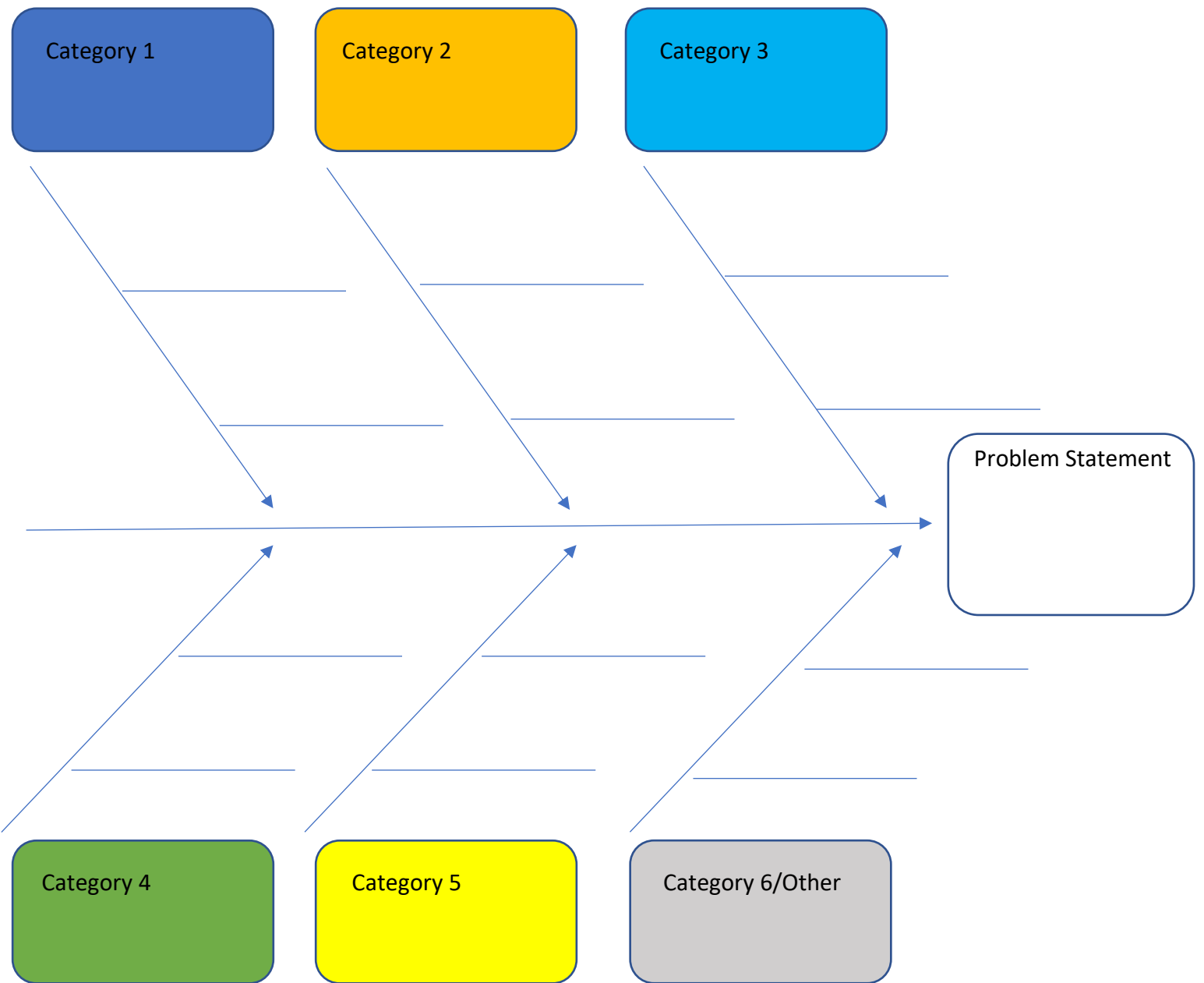
Now that your group has identified the potential root cause(s) of your problem statement, you may decide to examine current partnerships and relationships related to the issue. This optional next step is meant to help your team identify existing partnerships and brainstorm new ones that would support you in addressing the health concern.

1. Set a timer for 7 minutes. As a group, brainstorm existing and potential partnerships that could assist you in addressing the chosen health outcome.
2. Choose the appropriate quadrant for each partnership. (High Influence/Strong Support, High Influence/Low Support, etc.)

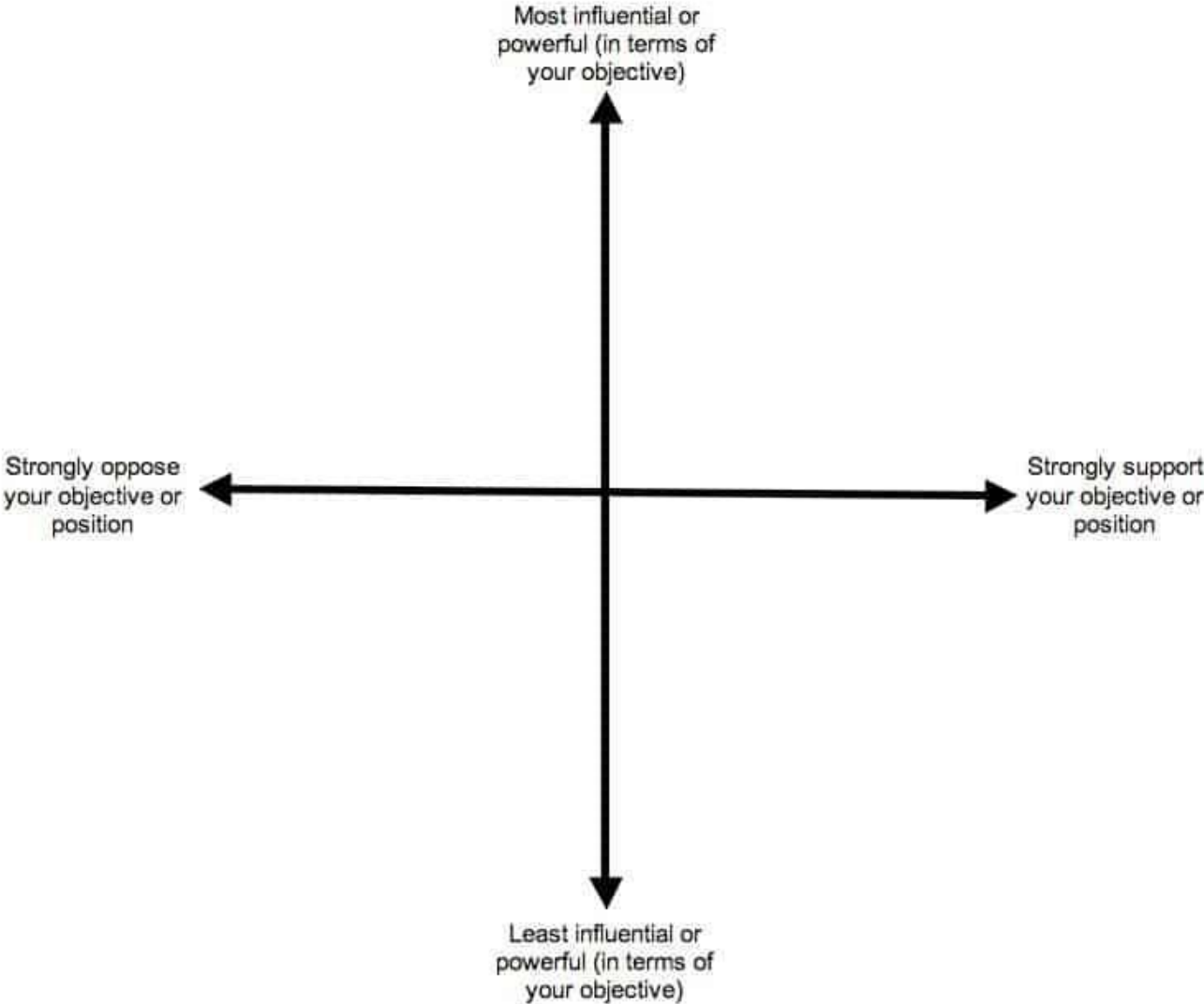
NOTE: If completing this activity on a computer, insert text boxes over the areas that you would like to type in order to maintain the shape of each diagram/chart. See example of completed exercise [here](#).

Fishbone Diagram

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5



Power Analysis



Goal:
Goal Date:
What does success look like?:

Action Steps

Goal:
Goal Date:
What does success look like?:

Goal:
Goal Date:
What does success look like?:

Current Partners

Potential Partners

Notes