

Five whys



Module IV



Course 3



T1



L3

Activity

- **Short Description:** Is a critical thinking tool that helps in understanding the root causes of a problem.
- **Methodology:** Answers to questions
- **Duration:** 1 hour
- **Difficulty (high - medium - low):** low
- **Individual / Team:** Teams 5-10
- **Classroom / House:** Classroom
- **What do we need to do this activity?**
 - Flipchart
 - Internet Connection
 - Paper, pen, markers, post-its

Description:

The Five Whys methodology is an iterative interrogative technique that search for the causes underlying a problem. The main objective is finding the root cause of a problem by asking several times the question “Why?”. Each answer gives the basis of the next question. Usually by the fifth question the root cause emerges.

Instructions



The teacher can up with a problem related with cultural heritage in their region, for example, how to preserve the history of the cultural elements or how to respond to the needs of promotion of a cultural capital city.

Students will be distributed in teams. Through a flipchart or a paper where 5 whys are written, each team begins to ask iteratively the question why. Each answer will be the base of the next question.

1. STEP 1: Presentation of the challenge and time schedule
2. STEP 2: Individual reflexion 5'
3. STEP 3: Brainstorming of ideas in group 30'
4. STEP 4: Achieving a common point of view 10'
5. STEP 5: Panel session and conclusions 45'

At the panel discussion session the teacher will ask students to explain their views and ideas on the subject and negotiate on whether they agree or not. The main objectives of this exercise is to provide students with the opportunity to generate their own new key ideas. Through this motivation process, the students will be encouraged to freely express and explain their ideas and judge the ideas of their classmates in order to reveal multiple aspects of the subject and enriching their knowledge.

Expected outcomes

- Root cause of a problem that defines the problem statement.

Illustration:

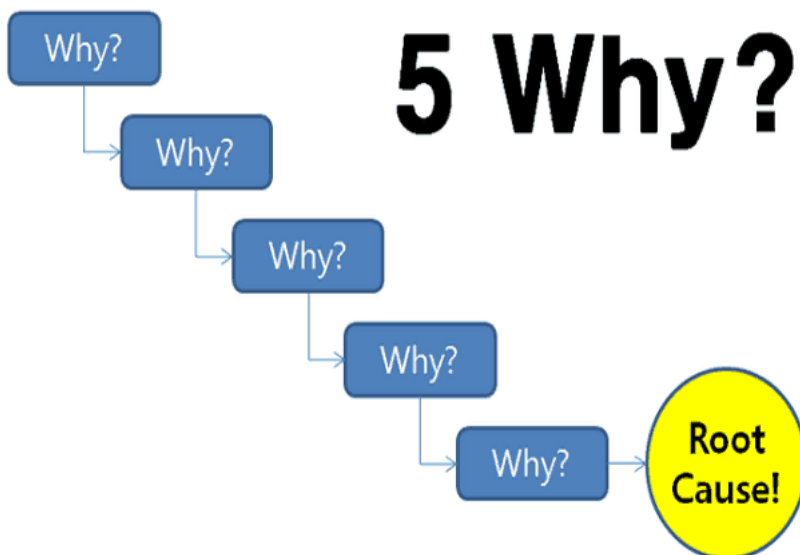


Image: <https://www.taproot.com/whats-wrong-with-5-whys-complete-article/>



This activity can be used in other (module, course, topic, lesson):

- Course IV. Critical thinking / L3: critical thinking tools

REFERENCES:

- Mind tools. 5 whys: Getting the root of a problem quickly. Retrieved in https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_5W.htm
- Kambanize. 5 whys: The ultimate root cause Analysis tool. Retrieved <https://kanbanize.com/lean-management/improvement/5-whys-analysis-tool>

