

# Application 10: Formulate a problem statement

This is a team assignment; every member of your team must take part in doing this assignment. Only one member of your team needs to submit this form.

As

a team, describe your problem of choice by answering five questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why?

(1) Answer each question using simple language free of technical terms and professional jargon.

(2) Combine your answers into a single paragraph, your problem statement.

(3) Based on your problem statement, describe 3-5 success criteria by which you will compare your ideas for solving the problem.

Base your responses on the case description you created for the problem.

hllin@mit.edu [Switch account](#)



\* Indicates required question

Email \*

Your email



Team letter \*

A

B

C

Who? \*

The group of people most affected by the challenge.

Your answer

What? \*

The way in which that group of people is affected by the challenge.

Your answer

Where? \*

The physical and/or virtual location/s in which the challenge occurs.

Your answer

When? \*

The event/s or period/s during which the challenge occurs.

Your answer



**Why? \***

The causes and enablers of the event during which the challenge occurs.

Your answer

**Problem statement \***

Based on your answers to the five Ws, type one or two short paragraphs which describe the core of the problem in a solution-neutral way. Your statement should be concise, distilling the core of the problem/challenge you chose to address.

Your answer

**Success criteria \***

Based on your problem statement and your knowledge of the problem, describe 3-5 success criteria by which you will compare your ideas for solving the problem. For each criterion, provide a name in 2-5 words and a short description of one or two sentences.

Your answer

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided.

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