

Seven questions that will Solve any problem

The questions that follow are drawn from the work of Michael Gelb, who has done extensive research into the life of Leonardo da Vinci, the renaissance polymath widely regarded as the most complete genius in term of multiple intelligences.

Gelb proposes that almost any problem can be solved by the repeatedly asking just seven questions, what, when, who, how, where, why and what if!

1. What

- Is the essence of this problem?
- Are there three positive things about this problem?
- Will it be like when the problem is completely solved?

2. When

- Does it seem most like a problem?
- Does it seem least like a problem?
- Does it need to be resolved by?

3. Who

- Created this problem?
- Would benefit most from this problem being solved?
- Could solve this problem most easily?

4. How

- Could I get a fresh perspective on this problem?
- Will I know that this problem has been solved?
- Could I motivate myself to do what needs to be done to solve this problem?

5. Where

- Does it happen?
- Haven't I looked for answers yet?
- Else has this happened, in my life or world?

6. Why

- Is resolving this problem important?
- Does this problem persist?
- Haven't I resolved it yet?

7. What if

I knew I would discover the solution to this problem in exactly one week from today- how would that change what I am doing now?

This turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to me – what then?

This was completely resolved by the end of today. What would I focus on next?

Each time you ask and answer these questions and other variations that occur to you, you will gain new insights into how to better handle the situation you are exploring.



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