

Solve Problems, Test Ideas, and Deliver Results

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This guide, inspired by **Jake Knapp's book "Sprint,"** outlines a practical problem-solving methodology I've used since 2016. Although I am not affiliated with Jake Knapp, I've found this approach incredibly effective.

You can print this PDF or import it to your favorite note-taking app on your tablet.

Some Notes on Using This Template

1. Mindmap (Map in the book)

Start by spending most of your time on this stage. Grab an empty sheet of paper or open your favorite note-taking app. Begin creating boxes and bubbles. Use bubbles or ellipses for inputs and boxes for desired outputs. It's okay if there aren't many boxes initially.

Connect these shapes, and you'll discover new shapes indicating processes or intermediate steps. I use circles for these. These shapes represent dependencies or information you need to research. Don't worry if your mindmap looks chaotic; we will refine it later.

2. Blueprint (Sketch in the book)

Revisit your mindmap. Take an initial input and trace its effects through the process to the expected output. Draw this sequence on a new sheet—input, process (with dependencies), and output. Repeat this for all threads from your mindmap.

This refined map becomes your blueprint, guiding you to your goal. At this stage, explore divergent thinking individually or seek input from a trusted colleague or friend. Collaborative inputs can enhance your blueprint.

3. Decision (Decide in the book)

With a clear understanding of the problem, parameters, and blueprint, identify the best tools to follow the plan. Whether it's Excel, Visual Basic coding, or another tool, aim for simplicity and efficiency. Automate processes where possible. If you have multiple tools, use the decision matrix in the template to help ease your decision-making with the advantages and disadvantages of each tool.

Gather as many initial inputs and dependencies as you can to streamline your work.

4. Build (Prototype in the book)

Now, it's time to implement your plan. Build your solution, whether it's a market model, an automated financial sheet, a presentation, or training materials. This is the stage where your preparation turns into tangible results.

5. Review (Test in the book)

Finally, have others review your work. Whether it's a presentation or a set of instructions, let someone else examine it. Encourage them to provide feedback, even if it's critical. This feedback is crucial for refining your work and preparing for the next version.

Take a moment to relax and celebrate your progress. You've reached a significant milestone. Check this item off your list, rejoice, and prepare to apply this method again for future challenges. This cycle of problem-solving ensures continuous improvement and innovation.

Mindmap

Blueprint

Build Notes

Feedback Notes