

# Master Problem Solving

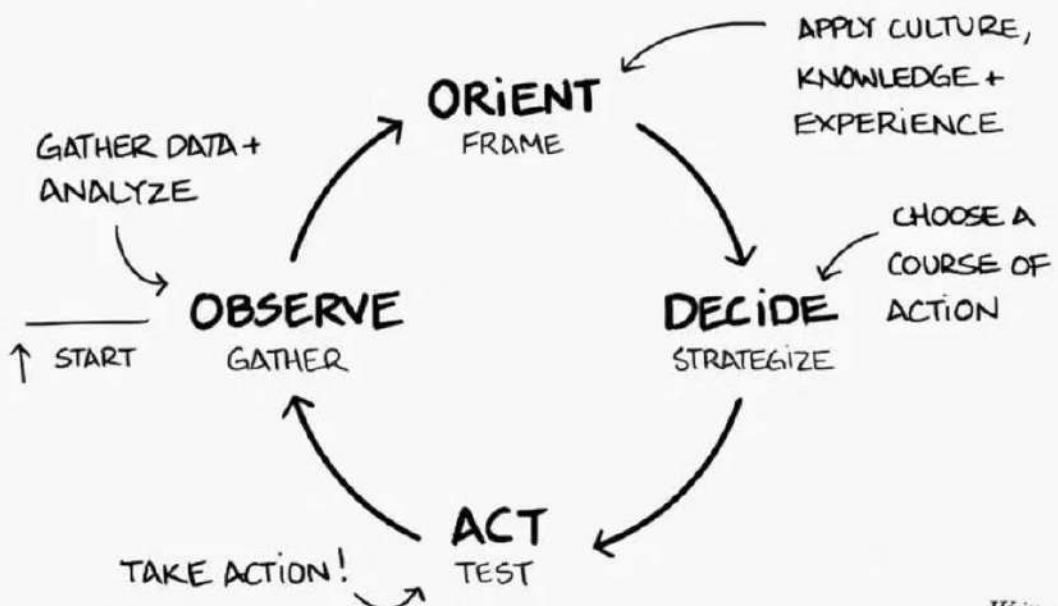
7 MENTAL MODELS TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS

Nikola Tesla

*Inventor of  
Alternating Current  
(AC) Power Systems*

Swipe 

*Written by*  
Elevated Path



#1 - By John Boyd

Written by  
Elevated Path

# The OODA Loop

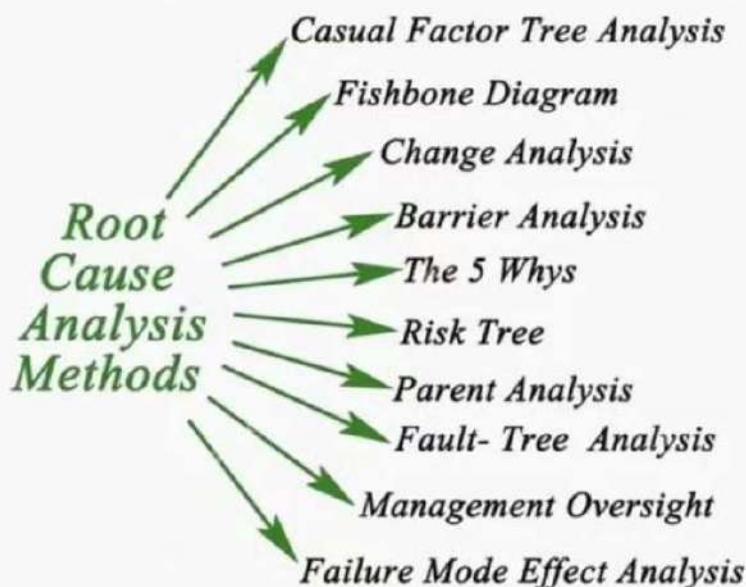
A Continuous Loop For *Rapid Learning And Response*

## Steps:

- **Orient:** Analyse Context And Biases
- **Decide:** Choose The Best Action
- Orient
- **Act:** Execute Fast, Then Loop Again
- **Observe:** Gather The Facts

## Useful For:

Strategic pivots, crisis response, competitive environments.



#5 - By Sakichi Toyoda

Written by  
Elevated Path

# Root Cause Analysis

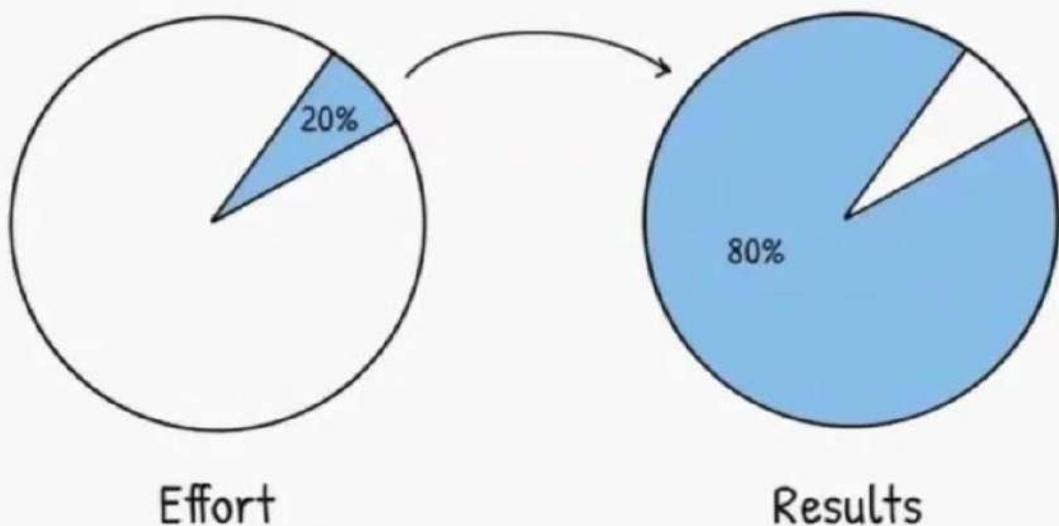
Most Problems Don't Need More Effort.

They Need **Better Diagnosis**. This Helps You Uncover Why Something Happened, Not Just What Happened.

- ***Define The Problem***
- ***Identify Possible Causes***
- ***Validate The Root Cause***
- ***Design The Solution***
- ***Gather The Data***

## Useful For

Persistent issues, system failures, customer complaints.



#4 – By Vilfredo Pareto

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## The 80/20 Principle

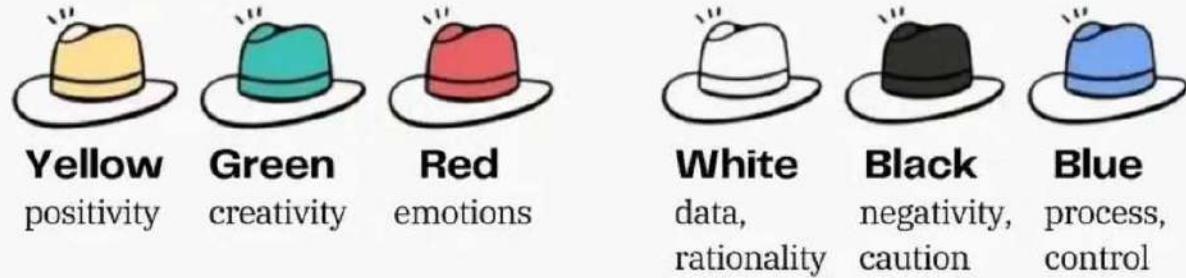
Identify The The **Small Number Of Inputs** That Create The **Majority Of Your Results**.

### How to use it:

1. List all your ***activities or tasks***.
2. ***Measure outcomes***: revenue, engagement, etc.
3. ***Identify the 20%*** driving most of the results.
4. ***Double down*** on those activities.
5. ***Eliminate, automate, or delegate*** the rest.

### Useful For

Optimising systems, scaling operations, reviewing performance



#3 – By Edward De Bono

Written by  
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## Six Thinking Hats Model

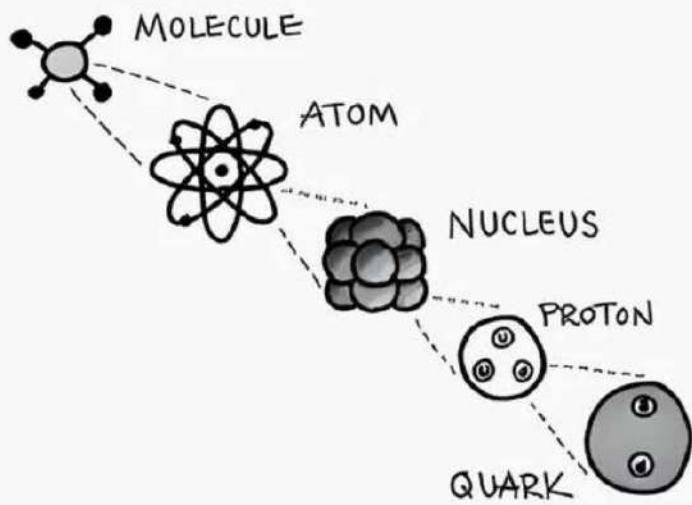
Switch Between *Different Modes Of Thinking* Instead Of Mixing Them All At Once As A Team.

### How to use it:

- *Define the problem* or decision.
- *Assign or rotate hats* so everyone uses one hat at a time.
- *Cycle through all six* then summarise under the Blue Hat.
- End with a decision or *action plan*.

### Useful For:

Brainstorming sessions, team strategy meetings, conflict resolution.



*"Boiling problems down to their most fundamental truths."*

#2

## First Principles Thinking

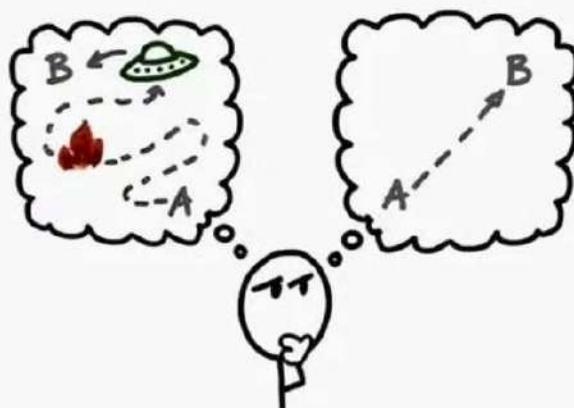
Deconstruct Problems To Their Foundational Truths

**"Question Everything Until Only Truth Remains."**

1. ***Identify the problem*** you want to solve
2. ***Break it down*** into the fundamental pieces
3. ***Question and challenge*** your assumptions
4. ***Create a new solution*** from the ground up

### **Useful For:**

Innovation, product design, creative problem solving.



*"When faced with two equally good hypotheses, always choose the simpler."*

*Written by*  
Elevated Path

#6

## Occam's Razor

When multiple explanations or solutions exist, the **simplest one is usually correct.**

### How to use it:

- Define the **problem**.
- **List** all possible explanations.
- **Apply the razor:** Which explanation requires fewest assumptions?
- Act on the **Simplest Viable Answer**.

### Useful For

Diagnosing poor performance, streamlining strategy, evaluating data.

The Situation	Ask Yourself	Result
You're stressed over a client email	"Will this matter in 5 years?"	No → Move on.
You're stressed over a client email	"Will this matter in 5 years?"	No → Move on.
You're facing a tough business setback	"Will this still matter in 5 years?"	No → Move on.

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#7

## The 5x5 Rule

A simple framework for **perspective and emotional control**. Helps you **focus energy** on what actually matters.

### How to use it:

- ***Pause*** before reacting
- Ask the ***5x5 question***
- ***Act***, don't overthink
- ***Reframe*** instantly
- ***Repeat*** daily.

### Useful For:

Handling business stress, dealing with difficult people, overcoming overthinking.

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