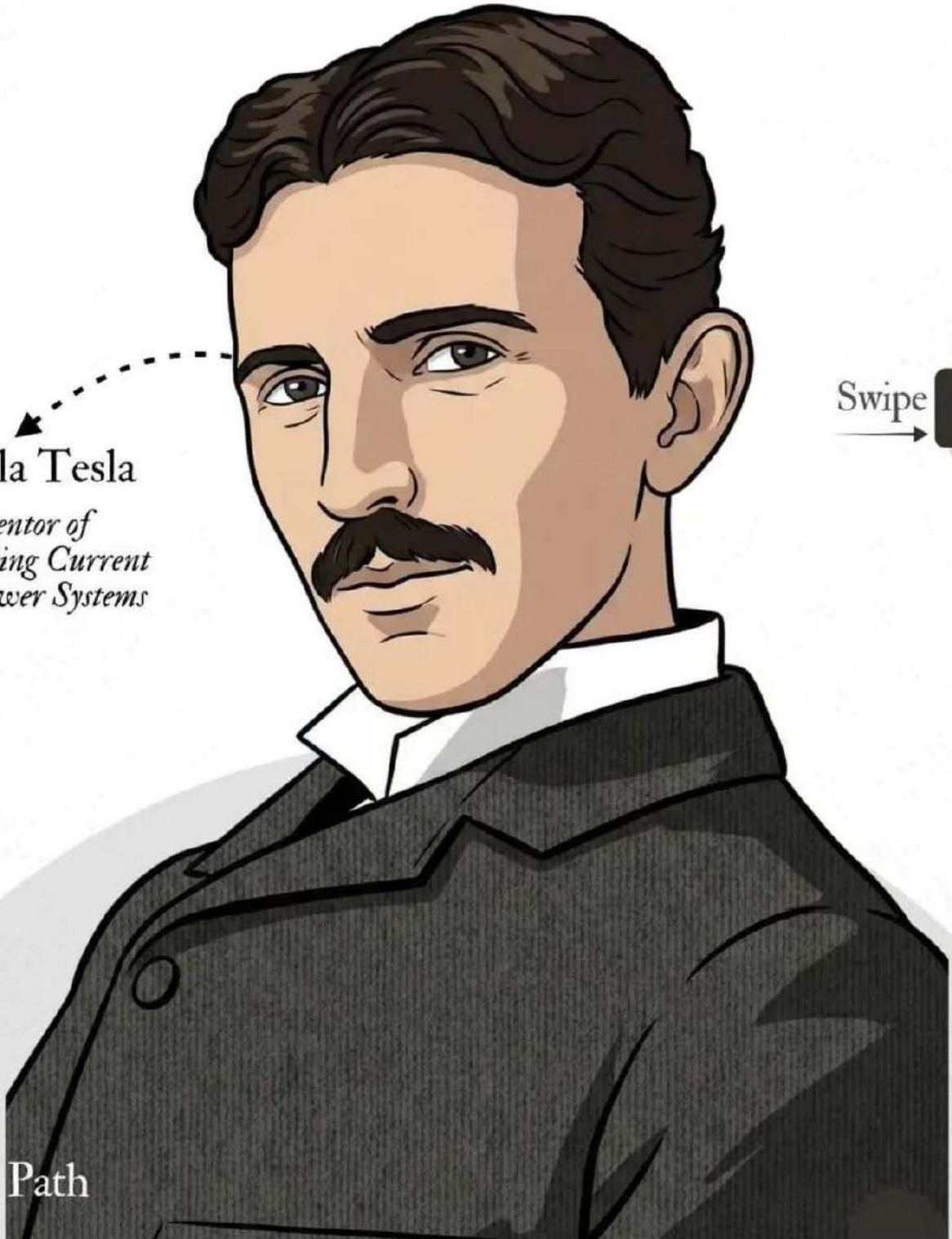


Master Problem Solving

7 MENTAL MODELS TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS



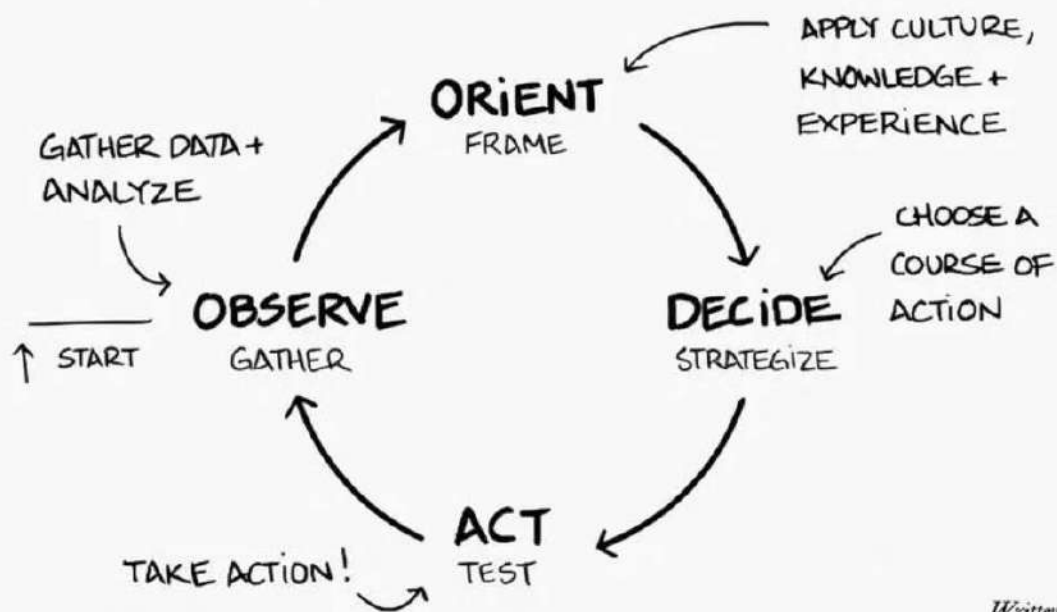
Nikola Tesla

*Inventor of
Alternating Current
(AC) Power Systems*

Swipe



Written by
Elevated Path



#1 – By John Boyd

Written by
Elevated Path

The OODA Loop

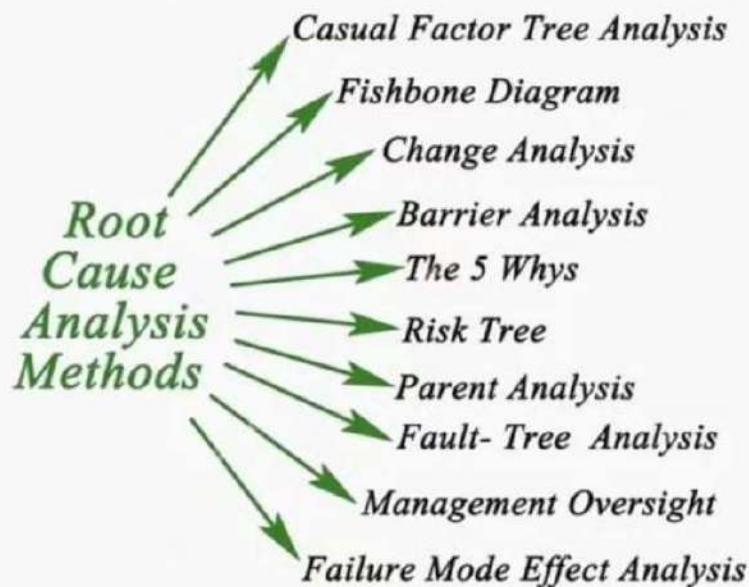
A Continuous Loop For *Rapid Learning And Response*

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

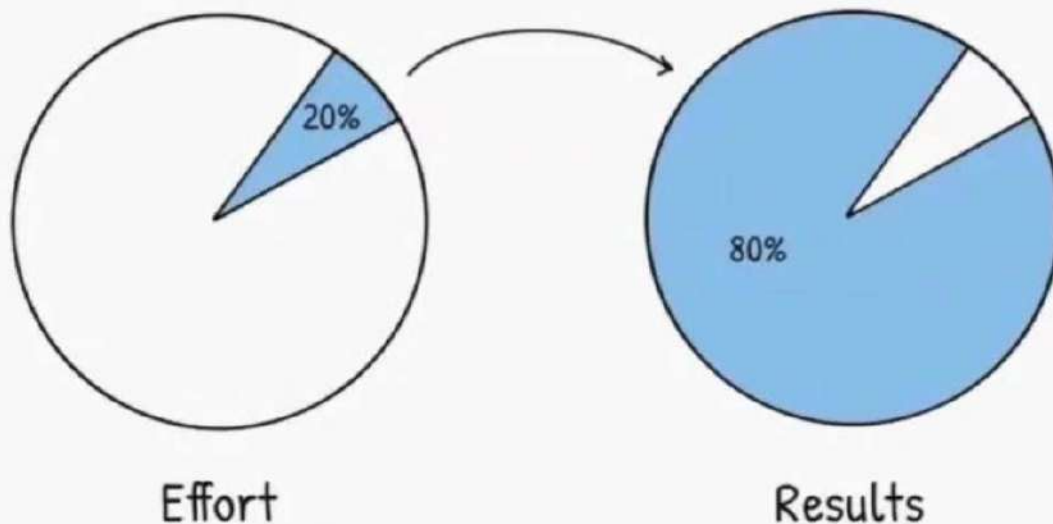
Most Problems Don't Need More Effort.

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

Written by
Elevated Path

The 80/20 Principle

Identify 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



Yellow
positivity



Green
creativity



Red
emotions



White
data,
rationality



Black
negativity,
caution



Blue
process,
control

#3 – By Edward De Bono

Written by
Elevated Path

Six Thinking Hats Model

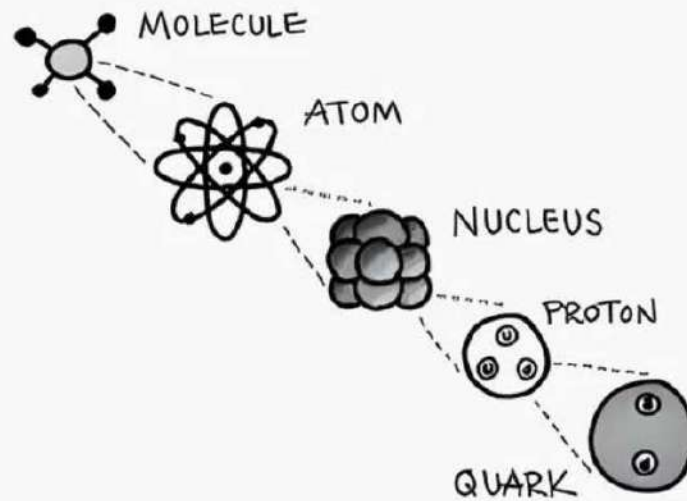
Switch Between *Different Modes Of Thinking* Instead Of Mixing Them All At Once As A Team.

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

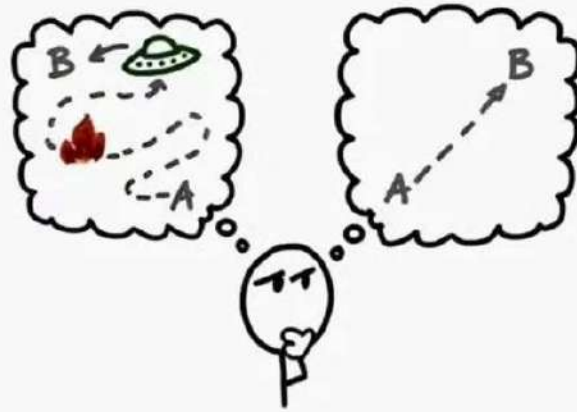
Deconstruct Problems To Their Foundational Truths

"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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