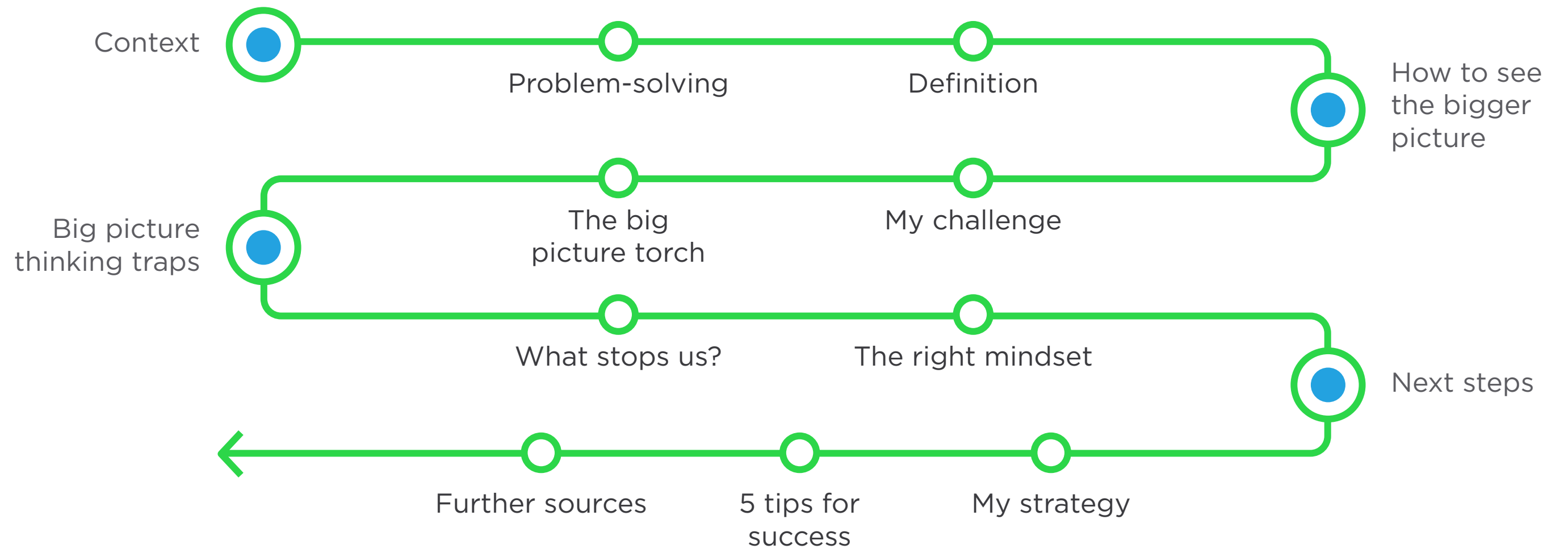


# The big picture

Virtual handout



# The big picture



## 1 **Big picture thinking**

- When presented with a problem we jump in straightaway and plan our tactics to deal with the situation
- If we step back first, we are more likely to see the bigger picture, meaning we can develop a strategy
- This can lead to more efficient problem-solving, by allowing us to solve the right or the bigger problem

## 2 **The benefits**

- It can create and capture new ways of doing things
- It can help spot opportunities or problems early on
- It helps to uncover the real problem/challenge
- It can stop problems from reoccurring

### 3 Problem-solving

You come to a river at night. The river is rising and the bridge you need to cross will be washed away in 17 minutes. The bridge can only support the weight of two people at any one time, and whoever is crossing the bridge takes the time of the slowest person.

It is pitch black and you only have one torch. This means that every time someone crosses the bridge, the torch must be with them.



You

take 1  
minute to  
cross the  
bridge



X

takes 2  
minutes to  
cross the  
bridge



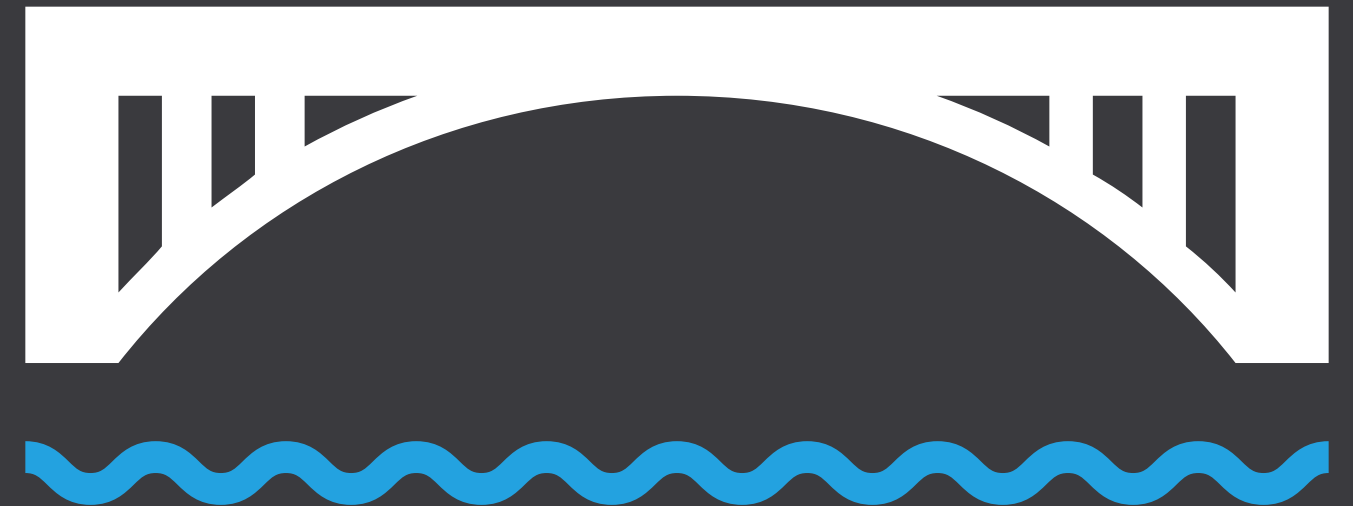
Y

takes 5  
minutes to  
cross the  
bridge



Z

takes 10  
minutes to  
cross the  
bridge



What do you do?

## 4 How to see the bigger picture

Seeing the bigger picture is all about the questions we ask ourselves. Asking the right questions will allow us to widen our perspective and then focus in, much like adjusting the beam of a torch.



### Widening perspective

- Why is this important for the wider context?
- Why has this happened?
- Why does this relate to the business?
- Why are we focused on this issue?

### Assessing the situation

- What is the real challenge?
- What are the main issues?
- What is the main goal?
- What would a 'perfect' resolution look like?

### Planning action

- How can we act on this?
- How can we learn from past actions?
- How does this work in practice?
- How can we make sure it is a success?

## 5 Thinking traps

### Responsibility bypass

The buck doesn't  
stop here.

Mindset

Action

### Taking the easy way out

Choosing old  
solutions or those  
that meet minimum  
requirements.

Mindset

Action

### Time challenges

Constant time  
pressure encourages  
jumping in.

Mindset


Action

## 6 My challenge



A large, empty white rectangular box for writing a challenge.

Key questions



A large, empty white rectangular box for writing key questions.

My insights



A large, empty white rectangular box for writing insights.

**7** My strategy

Potential challenge



What would

ask?





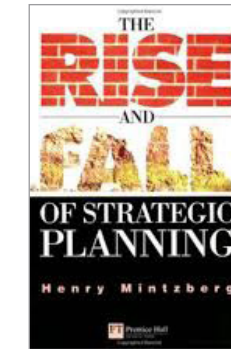
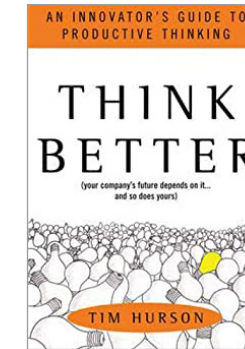
## 5 tips for success

- 01** Be curious. Generate an open frame of mind.
- 02** Hold back. When presented with a problem stop yourself from jumping in.
- 03** Zoom out. Start big picture thinking by asking 'why' questions.
- 04** Search. Find the real or bigger issue, not necessarily the one you started with.
- 05** Plan. Generate tactics that fit into a larger strategy.

Find out more at [themindgym.com](https://themindgym.com)

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### Books



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Business brain

Creativity  
for logical  
thinkers

Different  
perspectives