# Problem Definition Worksheet

## Problem Statement

For this project I would like to analyze the time it takes me to prepare my horse for riding so that I can reduce the overall preparation time allowing me more actual time in the saddle. My horse suffers from a weak sacroiliac area and requires regular and consistent exercise. Increasing riding time would not only improve and stabilize his condition, but would also reduce my veterinarian expenses.

## Business Impact

Horses with sacroiliac (SI) issues like my horse require annual injections, chiropractic work, anti-inflammatories, and often extra vet appointments if not properly maintained. Last year, I spent over $450 on injections, $100 on anti-inflammatories (Phenylbutazone or “bute”), and $2,000 on chiropractic work and acupuncture on this horse. However, if horses with SI issues are kept in steady work, not only does the need for anti-inflammatories decrease or disappear, manipulations can be reduced, and the time between injections can be increased.

I currently spend about 45 minutes to properly prepare my horse for riding. I only have between 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM each night to prepare to ride and then ride my horse before the ring is occupied and cannot be used. That leaves me only about 15 minutes to ride which is not adequate to properly exercise my horse. If I can reduce my ride preparation time, I can increase my riding time which will allow me to perform the exercises recommended by my veterinarian for my horse and consequently reduce my veterinarian expenses.

## Goals

For this project, my goal is to reduce my preparation time by up to 15 minutes so that I would have close to 30 minutes to exercise my horse.

## Project Scope

Since I am not able to ride every day, there are some specific boundaries around this project. The scope would be Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I work on Monday nights and take college courses on Thursday nights, so these days are not within scope for this project. The project will include everything from bringing the horse in from his paddock to placing the final piece of tack on the horse.

## Team

I will be the only person working on this project and therefore the only one that will be impacting the process and analyzing the process.

## Project Plan

My expected project plan is as follows:

* Define the problem: October 7, 2018
* Measure the process performance: October 8, 2018 through October 22, 2018
* Analyze the process: October 23, 2018 through October 31, 2018
* Improve the process performance: November 1, 2018 through November 21, 2018
* Control the improved process: November 22, 2018 through December 6th

## Process Map

Yes

Is it Monday or Thursday?

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Enter Ring to ride

Put on saddle pad, saddle, girth and bridle

Apply Hoof Ointment

Pick hooves

Brush Mane/Tail

Soft brush

Hard brush

Curry/shed blade horse

Yes

Put horse on cross ties

No

Horse in Stall?

Bring Horse from Paddock to Stall

No

Arrive at Barn