**Better Together: The First Journey**

1. **Introduction**

Have you ever felt tired and alone inside the dark clouds of your life and career? You feel like a storm is going to sweep you out the circle of your life and make you bend your knee? Don't worry, you are not alone in this journey, go with me and together we will become better with 5 steps.

“Better Together” is a life motto. It is not only "the secret" to working and studying better, but also a lifestyle, a guiding star that leads us to a happier and more beautiful life.

1. **Story**

So let’s begin with my story:

Story 1

I am taking a course in Coursera with instructor Andrew Ng. He is one of the best teachers I have ever had. He is my inspiration. He always shares his experiences with love and sincerely. He always thanks us for spending time learning with him, even though he is the one who objectively shares precious experiences to the one who needs it. He helps me understand,do complex and abstract things step by step in a practical way that makes learning so fun. Then there is a day, I learn how a computer classify an image is a cat or a dog and it works like this:

- First, we need to define what is the ***main character*** in this challenge? It’s images of cats and dogs.

- Computers don't have a human brain which is very good at processing images. So how can a computer understand images to know a cat or a dog? Is there any way to ***teach*** a computer? One of the ways is to use an artificial neural network which is stimulated based on the way our brains work. So let’s create a model based on that idea.

- Build a model using artificial neural network structure.

- Evaluate if it’s good or not by some standards.

- And then update, build again to become better.

Story 2

Another story is: I’m tutoring a high school student. Her name is Nguyen Ngoc Bao Han - a very beautiful name. She is smart, approachable and so energetic. She inspires me to think deeper so I can explain abstract math concepts in easier ways, so she and we can become BETTER TOGETHER. And there was a day when I taught her, this happened. She learned about the perpendicular bisector of a line, and she was confused between the perpendicular bisector of a line and the median line. So how can I explain it to her:

- Ok, I need to show the difference between the perpendicular bisector of a line and median line. I will do that by teaching her what makes a line become the perpendicular bisector of a line.

- I show her that a line becoming a perpendicular bisector of the line needs to satisfy two conditions:

+ That line needs to ***cross the middle point*** of the line we want.

+ That line needs to be ***perpendicular*** to the line we want.

- Then she did some examples with two key points that I highlighted in the solution above .

- When she’s done, we reviewed together.

- Then she did it again to make what she has presented about that example BETTER. Then she and I reviewed again, she did again get BETTER and finished until it was completely easy understood and right answers.

1. **Model**

So what you can see in two stories above is to achieve a goal it's a process of 5 steps:

Step 1: define the problem.

Step 2: find a solution.

Step 3: do it, practice it.

Step 4: take a review, like is that correct or what is the score in scale 10, what needs to improve.

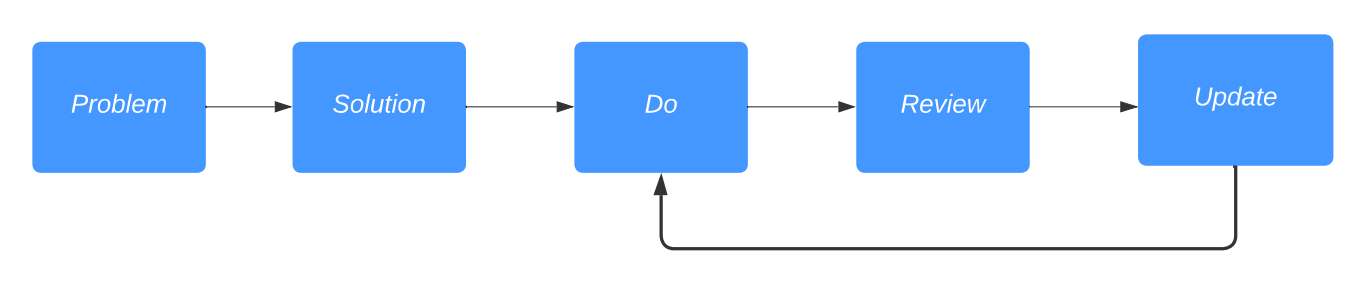
Step 5: update from the review and do it again.

This is the process:

Problem ⟶ Solution ⟶ Do ⟶ Review ⟶ Update

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Okay, it sounds make sense but you will wonder: how can we do it effectively and become BETTER TOGETHER?

So what we need to do:

in the first step (define the problem): you, me, we need to define it RIGHT.

In the second step (find a solution): you, me, we need to find a PRACTICAL solution.

In the third step (do it): you, me, we need to HARDWORKING.

In the fourth step (review): you, me, we need to NETWORKING. Because besides the tools evaluate only your result then look again at what needs to be fixed, it’s so boring. So you need at least a person and you always have a person already, IT'S YOURSELF and BETTER when many people with POSITIVE energy review TOGETHER. When you do that, you and your reviewers TOGETHER can see a lot of things NEED and CAN develop. For example, the knowledge that you, they are vague or don't understand quite clearly and the way you, they explain it to each other. And the thing I think is great when doing that is TOGETHER is more FUN.

In the fifth step (update): you, me, we need to LISTEN to the reviews, then do it again to see how it goes.

And do you recognize some things?

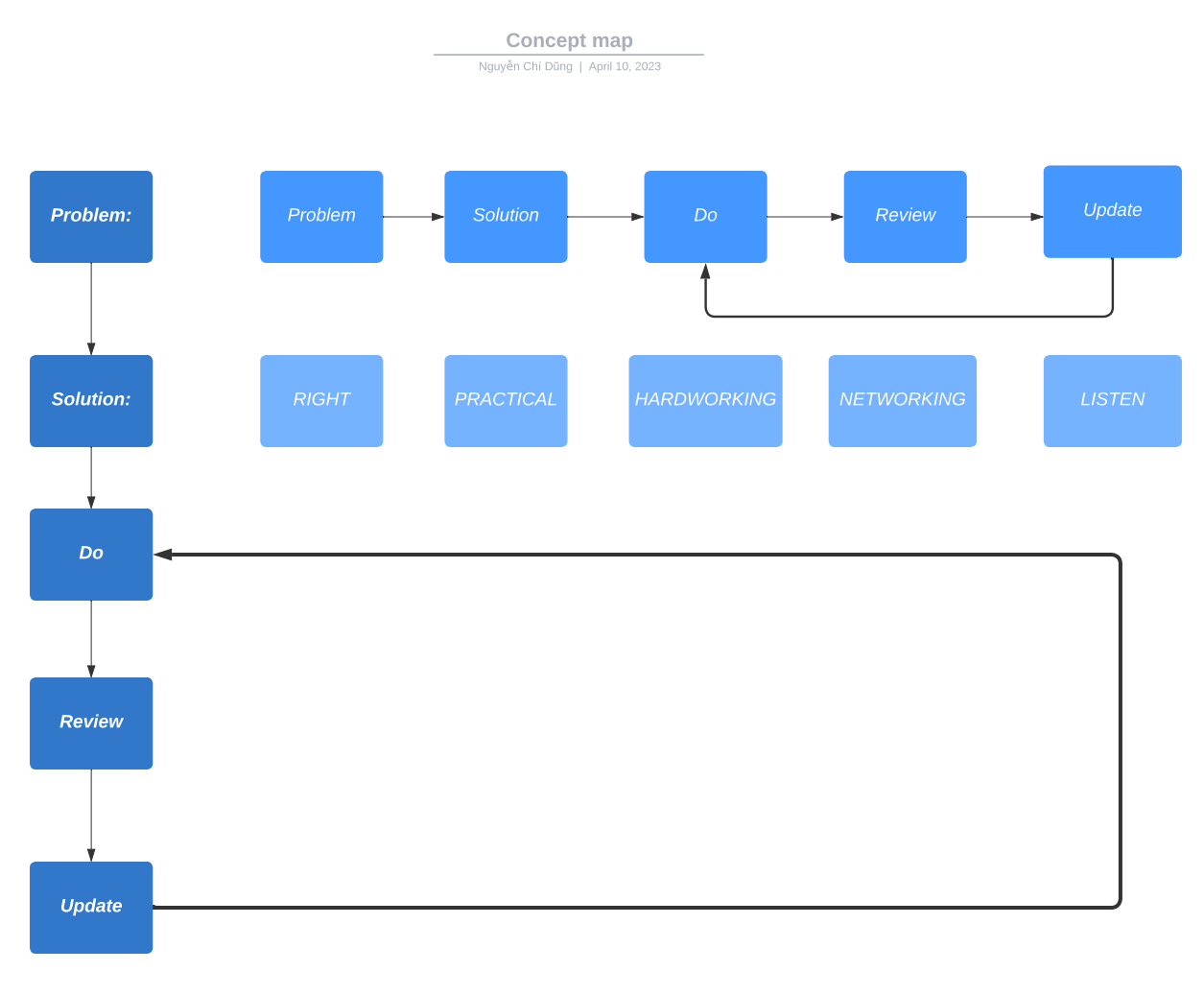
Again, it’s a process of 5 steps:

Problem: Do the process effectively.

Solution: Is above.

And then: Do ⟶ Review ⟶ Update.

This how it looks like:



1. **Apply model to real life and my life**

Example1: How to become bilingual.

Problem: Need to be good at a new language.

Solution: Find a course about the language you want to learn with a lot of student’s enrollment and high star ratings, then ask your close friends to learn with you.

Do: Learn the course, practice with your friends.

Review: Your friends and you, remember REVIEW INCLUDE YOU.

Update: Listen to your friend’s opinion and practice what you need to improve.

But do you think about a scenario where you don’t have some close friends yet. What should you do? So again:

Example 2: How to have close friends.

Problem: Need to have close friends.

Solution: Find a course about socializing , networking with a lot of student’s enrollment and high star ratings .

Do: Learn the course and then talk to friends in your class.

Review: Friends in your class and YOU.

Update: Listen to their response, their emotions, their opinions. Then practice, do it again.

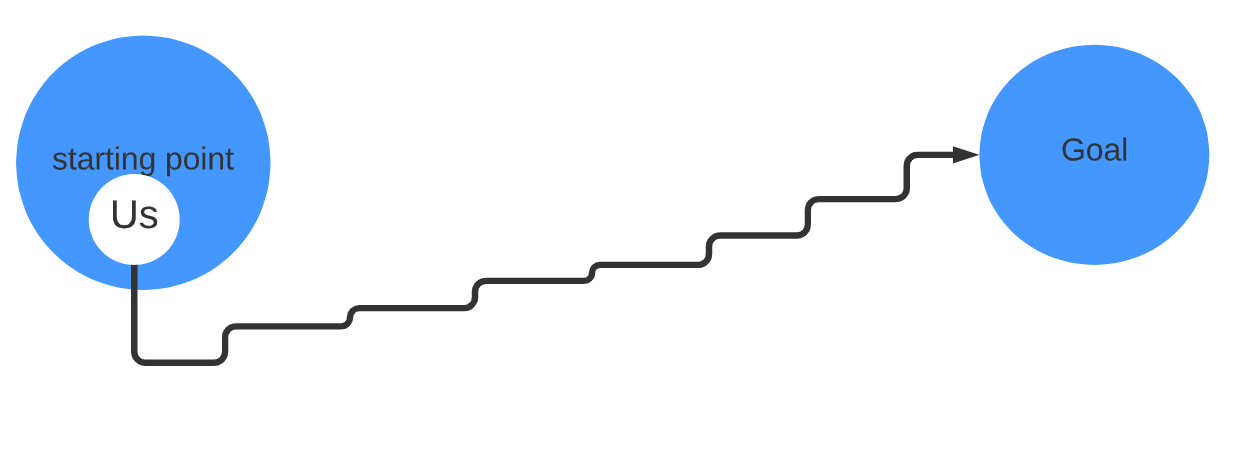
So I think you can see why NETWORKING is so important and we need it to become a BETTER version of ourselves TOGETHER.

And there is a question I usually ask my close friends when I talk with them , that is “**IF I NEED TO CHANGE ONE THING, WHAT IS IT?**”. I have this question when I read “How to be a power connector” (author: Judy Robinett – the best speaker I have ever heard). Sometimes, you may get some answers but unfortunately, I don’t. But that UNFORTUNATELY led to my LUCKILY, I **HAVE THE FIRST TIME REVIEW MYSELF TRULY BY MYSELF ABOUT WHAT I HAVE DONE**. And that is the key reason why I started writing this story. Finally I figured out the answers. And my problem is that I am too **SUBJECTIVE**. I do, then I rarely take reviews so I don’t UPDATE to become BETTER and also can not BETTER TOGETHER with people around me. It likes: ***My goal*** is to finish the 100 meters race in 20 seconds. I ran 50 meters in 8 seconds and stopped. I ***chilled***, I ***slept,*** then I’m ***late***. I do a pretty good job at the beginning but why I ***stop***, is because I’m tired. I just ran ***alone*** in that race but no one forced me to run alone. I can have my teammates run with me and my friends - the audience who encourage me. When I go alone, I have many doubts about myself like I don’t know do I run in the right way, why when I go further it just gets darker and darker. And there is a light shine my way, that is from my best friends. He asks me to hang out. When we play, we go cafe, we eat, he sees the sadness and tiredness in my eyes and he said: “How are you doing, my buddy, is there anything new, you look so tired”. I shared with him about my problem, then he smiled and said: “***I believe you are doing great, I always believe in you so you need to believe in yourself and why don’t do that with some people who are awesome like me*** :))”. That compliment and advice shine my light. I continue to run with confidence, with more teammates around who can support each other and audiences who can encourage me. That's how I ***achieve*** my goal.

And do you ever run in the **WRONG WAY**? I do :)). I do that when I and two of my friends do a project on a subject, which was teached by a teacher who gave us so many enjoyable lessons. He gave us a topic: **An application of Math in real life**. And we choose the prisoner's dilemma. It’s really fun and applies to so many fields based on math, especially in psychology. So what we do is all about **psychology** in real life **without giving any data about math**. At that point, my teams are all the best talented people in my class. The first member, she studied in a gifted high school and achieved many awards in Maths. The way she explains, teaches us about math theory is so energetic and passionate. The second member is a co-leader in our school social media page, she designs beautiful powerpoint for presentation, well-structured google docs for us to edit and spectacular latex for the report. And me, I am the one who will control the flow, handle when we conflict in opinions. I listen to their opinions, gently say my opinion when they finish, then ask other member’s opinions and ***just don’t force them say wrong to prove I’m right***, give them time to think and do in a better way. I strongly believe that we are doing great and we take our FIRST REVIEW before the presentation just **3 HOURS.** So no one of us can see that we are going in the wrong ways. And what happens will happen, our presentation is a disaster, everything falls apart, it is like a cacophony that makes the audience listen in confusion**.** Luckily, because my team listens and answers a lot of questions that my teacher asks when teaching so he remembers us, likes us. And we volunteer to be the first group present so he gives us a **second chance**. At that second chance, in 8 weeks, every week we REVIEW at least a time and work so hard. And when we finish our presentation, the audiences give us a big round of applause and a big round of applause again after our teacher’s compliment. So in the beginning, my team went like this:



And at our second chance, we go like this:



That’s why I think me, you, we should take a review and I take a review about myself in the day I said from the beginning. And the idea, the answer I have is after I teach Bao Han and think about the model I learn in the course taught by Andrew. The day I did this story was so great. It was sunny, I had a test, I nailed it, I reviewed my friend's science poster and understood clearer about a machine learning model that we have learned by reviewing TOGETHER and my health is recovering quickly.

There are some tips I want to share with you after I apply this model to have a better result at my school.

When I do a school project in groups, ***when we finish the project before the deadlines two or three weeks, I send it to my teacher and ask for a review***. Because your teacher can give you so many things to make your products better and so do me, my group members, we become BETTER TOGETHER. So if you have some people who are good at the things you are working on, ask their review is so fantastic but again how can you know them, close to them. It’s NETWORKING.

And so does the internship program. You have a problem and solution from your mentors. Ask them carefully, don't be scared if you don’t understand so you can define RIGHT problem and key points in the solution your mentors give you. You do it, then report to your mentors ***before the deadlines two to three weeks so your mentor can give you a review. When doing that , I believe you can show you are seriously learning, hardworking and responsible.***

***So after REVIEW MYSELF and write this story, I use this model more often now with people around me to BECOME BETTER TOGETHER EVERYDAY. And I think you, we did it before but maybe just without notice.***

1. **Review my model**

So I want to build a model that can help us have a specific path to achieve our dreams. To do that, first my model and my first layer (image 2) need to be accurate. And to do that, I need you. I, you, we TOGETHER can make my model become BETTER. I think my model is just like a seed right now and that seed needs to sprout, have a body, branch, leaf. So let’s finish our first layer then many other layers so TOGETHER grow a tree BETTER and each of the branches is a dream in different fields with fresh, positive energy.

Don’t hesitate to contact me because I also need to:

DO LISTEN UPDATE to become BETTER by REVIEW TOGETHER.

And,

IT’S ALWAYS BETTER WHEN WE’RE TOGETHER.

Contact me at:

Linkedin: [linkedin/chidung](https://www.linkedin.com/in/d%C5%A9ng-nguy%E1%BB%85n-8b92b8200/) Facebook: [fb.com/chidung](https://www.facebook.com/goodnight2k2/) Instagram: [ins.com/chidung](https://www.instagram.com/chidzung_ql/)

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The last thing I want to say is:

Thanks to my lovely mum (Quach Thi Ha), my patient dad (Nguyen Chi Que), my younger brother (Nguyen Duc Lam), my best friend (Tran Quang Khoi), my mentors(Quach Thi Thu Thuy, Nguyen Xuan Long. Nguyen Binh Minh), my inspirations(Andrew Ng, Nguyen Ngoc Bao Han, Judy Robinett), my partners (Dinh Tien Dung, Nguyen Thi Khanh Linh, Nguyen Hoang Giang), my teachers (Nguyen Thi Hong Minh, Nguyen Ngoc Phan), my relatives (Nguyen Phuong Nguyen, Quach An Khanh, Thuc Nguyen, Lily Nguyen, Nguyen Minh Anh, Quach Thi Thanh An, Bui Quynh Huong), all of my friends and all people around me make my 21 years experienced so grateful.

Thank you for spending time on my story.

If you want to thank, send your positive energy and spread this positive story because it gives me x **∞** power than coffee.

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Linkedin:

Facebook:

Instagram:

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Github: <https://github.com/quanly01/better-together>

Spotify:

Youtube:

Tiktok: