

Coming from a maintenance background, I've always understood the importance of minimizing downtime and keeping systems running. However, the Yellow Belt training gave me something I hadn't fully used before—a structured, data-driven approach to problem-solving.

This capstone wasn't just a project on paper—it reflected the real challenges I face daily. Emergency work orders, recurring breakdowns, and pressure from production deadlines are things I deal with all the time. What this training taught me is that we don't have to rely on firefighting. We can take a step back, define the problem clearly, and use Six Sigma tools to attack root causes, not symptoms.

One of my biggest takeaways was the value of measurement and analysis. Before, I might have said a machine is "often down"—now I measure that in hours, frequency, and failure type. That shift in mindset—from opinion to data—has already changed how I approach daily issues.

Working on this capstone also reminded me that improvement is a team effort. Creating team rules like "Team above all" and "Respect above all" helped shape a shared vision and accountability. I now better appreciate how structure, clarity, and involvement make the difference between just fixing something—and really improving it.

Most of all, this experience confirmed that Six Sigma belongs in maintenance, not just in production or quality departments. I now see how I can lead or support future projects with confidence and a clear methodology. I'm motivated to keep building on this—because what I've learned can bring real, lasting impact on the floor.