

Innovate4Impact — Problem Evidence Sheet

WEEK 3: Research & Problem Investigation

INNOVATE4IMPACT

Problem Evidence Sheet

Week 3 — Research & Problem Investigation

Team Name: _____

School: _____

Team Members: _____

SDG / Impact Area: _____

Date: _____

1. Our Problem

What problem are we investigating?

Describe the problem clearly in 2–3 sentences.

Who do we think experiences this problem?

- ☐ Children/Young People
- ☐ Families
- ☐ Schools/Teachers
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Businesses
- ☐ Older People
- ☐ People with Disabilities
- ☐ Other: _____

Describe the people affected:

2. Our Initial Assumption

Before conducting our research, what did we THINK was happening?

We assumed that:

What made us think this?

- ☐ Personal experience
- ☐ Something we observed
- ☐ News/social media
- ☐ Information from school/community
- ☐ Previous research
- ☐ Other: _____

Explain:

3. Evidence Collection

We must investigate the problem using evidence rather than assumptions.

Evidence sources used

Research Method	Used?	Number / Details
Interviews	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____ people
Survey	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____ responses

Observation	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____ observations
Online research	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____ sources
Existing statistics	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____ sources
Expert conversation	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____ experts
Other	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____

4. User Interview Evidence

Interview **3–5 potential users** or people who understand the problem.

Interview 1

Who did we speak to? _____

Their connection to the problem: _____

Question: How does this problem affect you?

Key response:

Important insight we learned:

Interview 2

Who did we speak to? _____

Their connection to the problem: _____

Question: How does this problem affect you?

Key response:

Important insight we learned:

Interview 3

Who did we speak to? _____

Their connection to the problem: _____

Question: How does this problem affect you?

Key response:

Important insight we learned:

Optional Interview 4

Who did we speak to? _____

Their connection to the problem: _____

Key response:

Important insight:

Optional Interview 5

Who did we speak to? _____

Their connection to the problem: _____

Key response:

Important insight:

5. Problem Detective

A. WHO experiences the problem?

Who is affected most?

Are some groups affected more than others?

B. WHAT causes the problem?

List the causes you discovered through your research.

Cause 1: _____

Cause 2: _____

Cause 3: _____

Cause 4: _____

C. HOW OFTEN does it happen?

What evidence did we find about how frequently the problem occurs?

Evidence/statistic:

Source: _____

D. HOW SERIOUS is the problem?

On a scale of **1–5**, how serious is the problem?

1 = Not very serious | 5 = Extremely serious

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Why did we choose this score?

E. WHY hasn't the problem already been solved?

What makes this problem difficult to solve?

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Lack of awareness
- ☐ Technology limitations
- ☐ Access
- ☐ Behaviour/habits
- ☐ Lack of resources
- ☐ Lack of funding
- ☐ Policy/system barriers
- ☐ Other: _____

Explain:

6. Existing Solutions

What solutions already exist?

Find at least **2 existing solutions**, organisations, products, services or initiatives addressing this problem.

Existing Solution 1

Name: _____

What does it do?

Who uses it?

What works well?

What are its weaknesses or limitations?

Existing Solution 2

Name: _____

What does it do?

Who uses it?

What works well?

What are its weaknesses or limitations?

Existing Solution 3 — Optional

Name: _____

What are its strengths?

What are its weaknesses?

7. Online Research & Statistics

Record reliable information that supports or challenges our understanding of the problem.

Source 1

Organisation/Website: _____

Finding/statistic:

Link/reference: _____

Source 2

Organisation/Website: _____

Finding/statistic:

Link/reference: _____

Source 3

Organisation/Website: _____

Finding/statistic:

Link/reference: _____

8. What Did We Discover?

Now compare our original assumption with the evidence.

Our original assumption was:

Our research showed:

Were we right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No
- ☐ We discovered something different

What surprised us?

9. Evidence Summary

Complete the sentences:

Our strongest piece of evidence was:

The people most affected by this problem are:

The biggest cause of the problem appears to be:

The problem happens:

Existing solutions are not fully successful because:

The biggest gap we identified is:

10. Evidence Confidence Check

How confident are we that this problem is real and important?

- ☐ 1 — We have very little evidence
- ☐ 2 — We have some evidence
- ☐ 3 — We have reasonable evidence
- ☐ 4 — We have strong evidence
- ☐ 5 — We have very strong evidence

Why?

11. Our Evidence-Based Problem Statement

Use your research to complete this statement:

[Who] experiences **[problem]** because **[cause]**, which results in **[impact]**.

Our problem statement:

12. Research Ethics Checklist

Before submitting our research, we checked that:

- ☐ We asked people for permission before interviewing them.
- ☐ We explained why we were asking questions.

- ☐ We did not pressure anyone to participate.
- ☐ We avoided asking for unnecessary personal information.
- ☐ We kept people's responses respectful and confidential.
- ☐ We did not make up evidence or statistics.
- ☐ We recorded information accurately.
- ☐ We checked that our online sources were credible.
- ☐ We avoided leading questions.

Example of a good question:

“How does this problem affect you?”

Avoid:

“Would you use our amazing app to solve this problem?”

13. Our Research Evidence Portfolio

Attach or collect evidence of your investigation.

- ☐ Interview notes
 - ☐ Survey results
 - ☐ Survey charts/graphs
 - ☐ Photographs of observations
 - ☐ Research articles
 - ☐ Statistics
 - ☐ Expert comments
 - ☐ Existing solution research
 - ☐ Other evidence: _____
-

TEAM REFLECTION

What is the most important thing we learned this week?

Has our understanding of the problem changed?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Explain:

What do we need to investigate next?

TEACHER / MENTOR CHECK

Does the team have sufficient evidence that the problem exists?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Needs more research

Does the evidence come from more than one source?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have potential users been consulted?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Has the team investigated existing solutions?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Is the final problem statement evidence-based?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Needs improvement

Teacher/Mentor Feedback

Teacher/Mentor Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

DON'T ASSUME. INVESTIGATE.

Good innovators don't just say a problem exists — they collect evidence to prove it.

Teams should only move forward once they can demonstrate **who has the problem, why it matters, what evidence supports it, and what existing solutions are missing.**