Lesson 2: Finding and Formulating Problems

Purpose: Use these techniques to define problems you are facing in your work environment, gather information about them, and word them in a way that makes them solvable.

Begin by selecting a problem you are facing to use as your problem focus. Think about processes or situations that could benefit from creative thinking.

Activity 1: Who? What? Where? When? Why?
Gather information about your problem focus using.

Who could be involved with this problem?
What could be involved?
Where and when will this occur?
Why are you doing it?

Activity 2: Invitational Stems
Now that you've gather enough information about your problem, turn your problem focus into a problem statement that can be addressed. Frame your problem focus using the stems below. How does this change the way you view your problem?

HMI: "How might I…"
IWWMW: "In what way might we…"
HT: "How to…"
WIBNI: "Wouldn't it be nice if…"
WISMDI: "What I see myself doing is…"
WISUDI: "What I see us doing is…"