

SPOTLIGHT ON: PRODUCTION

USING LEAN TO PROBLEM SOLVE

THE PROCESS: Since Toshiba first developed the LEAN system in the 1980's, businesses across the globe have used the principles of LEAN to identify problems and improve their processes. And even though companies often add steps to the LEAN process to best fit their individual needs, the sequence below illustrates the core problem solving steps of LEAN. We'll use this simplified version to help you work through a situation in your own life.


Step One: IDENTIFY A PROBLEM

What process needs to be improved?

Step Two: MAKE A PLAN

Then decide on a new strategy to improve

Step Three: EXECUTE

Try out your new plan.

Step Four: REVIEW

Evaluate results. Repeat the process if your problem still exists.

TASK: Using the simplified LEAN process above, identify a problem in your own life and then work through the LEAN steps to find a solution. Examples: Time spent doing homework; Communicating with your friends; Finding time for your hobbies...

MATERIALS: Pen, paper or Chromebook to work through your LEAN process.

TIME TO COMPLETE THE TASK: You will have the rest of class to identify your problems and two days to try to techniques to improve your process.

ASSIGNMENT: Turn your completed diagram, along with a written assessment on how LEAN helped to improve a process in your life.

INNOVATION → CHANGE → OPPORTUNITY → SUCCESS

In order to **grow** and **thrive**, businesses need to constantly be **thinking two steps ahead** of today. *What **changes** are happening in their industry? What do their customers **want**? How can they **improve** their business processes and procedures? How can they **create a need**?*