

Be Creative, Be Skeptical, Be Curious, and Be Strategic

Here are some questions I've written for myself to avoid getting stuck on problem solving in general.

Be creative: Open up to ideas that might seem silly for a while. Examples:

What's a completely different (possibly terrible) approach to this?

What would my crazy friend do?

If this were my only problem, how could I solve it?

If I were rich, could I just fix this with money somehow?

Be skeptical: Question assumptions...

Does this really work the way I think?

How sure am I of that?

How did I find that out?

What else may have caused me to have this belief?

If someone else believed that, what might have caused them to believe it?

Be curious. Try to actively want to learn about the causal structure at hand.

What sort of information could help me here?

Can I find that out for little or no long-term cost?

Who can I ask?

What can I read?

Be strategic: Look at every situational factor, and ask...

Is this something I could possibly affect?

Can I can ask someone else to affect it?

How can these effects help me?

What sacrifices could I make here?

Would they be worth it?