

Weekly Critical Thinking & Problem Solving Exercises

These exercises are designed to help you develop sharper critical thinking and structured problem-solving skills for business. Set aside 30-60 minutes each week to work through them. Record your answers and reflect.

Week 1 – Challenge Assumptions

Pick one process or belief in your business you've never questioned. Ask:

- Why do we do it this way?
- What would happen if we stopped?
- Are there better alternatives?

Week 2 – Root Cause Analysis

Identify a recurring problem in your business. Apply the 5 Whys method:

- Why is this happening?
- Keep asking 'why?' until you uncover the root cause.

Week 3 – Scenario Planning

Imagine your largest client leaves tomorrow.

- What would you do?
- How would you replace the revenue?
- What safeguards could you put in place now?

Week 4 – Decision Matrix

You need to choose between two vendors or tools. Set your decision criteria (e.g., cost, ease of use, scalability). Score each option and make a data-informed choice.

Week 5 – First Principles Thinking

Pick a long-standing practice. Break it down:

- What is the goal?
- What are the underlying assumptions?
- What's the most efficient way to achieve the goal from scratch?

Week 6 – Strategic Brainstorm

Think of a new revenue stream or product idea. Brainstorm at least 10 different ways to achieve it. No idea is too wild—prioritize later.