Analyzing Community Problems

Think of a situation in your community that you would like to see change. This could be an idea you are already working on to solve or something you would like to initiate action on.

If you are already working with a group to make a change in your community, you may want to complete or discuss this worksheet with those colleagues. Another alternative is to complete the worksheet and schedule a call with a classmate to discuss your thoughts or seek feedback, particularly if you are having trouble identifying stakeholders or clearly defining the problem.

Problem Definition Worksheet Drawn from pp. 37-41 of *The Community Leadership Handbook* (Krile, 2006)	
Step One: *What is the problem as you see it now?*	
Step Two: *Why is this a problem?*	
Step Three: *What are the causes and consequences of the problem?*	
Step Four: *Who is involved?* • *Who is affected by the problem and how are they affected?* • *Who gains from the situation the way it is now?* • *Who loses?* • *Who actually sees this as a problem?* • *Who is doing something about the problem, and what are they doing?*	

Step Five: *What other information do I need?*	
Step Six: *What's the aspect of the situation that I can and will take meaningful action to change?*	
Step Seven: *Reality check: Have I defined the problem in 'manageable terms' (something we can measure to determine impact)?*	