

Uh-oh...
We've Got a
Problem!









Task One: Create a Hypothesis

First, let's get thinky:

What is the problem?

Why is this problem happening?

Who might be involved?

Next, get a piece of lined paper and do a Quick Write (1 solid paragraph) to explain your hypothesis.

From the news...

Beirut is usually one of the pleasanter places in the Middle East — a bright, cosmopolitan city squeezed between the Mediterranean Sea and a green ridge of mountains.





Over the years, people have grown used to struggling through every day life in the city of Lebanon.

Because of problems in the government, electricity, water and traffic lights are all intermittent.

But for the past two weeks or so, the stench from mounds of rotting garbage has filled its streets.

This summer, the trash collection abruptly stopped on July 17, and even the resilient Lebanese are upset.

Face masks have become common, as have clouds of smoke as people set fire to trash mounds so big they sometimes spill over onto parked cars.

Temperatures soaring over 90 degrees Fahrenheit increase the stench.

Beirut's main landfill, south of the city in a village called Naameh, has overflowed for years. But it finally ran out of room for more trash in July.

With no plan to build a new landfill, trash collection just stopped in the capital and the villages around it.

Task Two: Identify All the Problems

On the back of your Hypothesis paper, make a list of many, varied, and unique problems that you can think of that might happen when a city stops collecting trash.

If you're looking for a challenge, classify your problems into groups.

Task Three: Identify Multiple Perspectives

First... think for a bit...

- ~ Who are the people who are affected by this problem?
- ~ What do they **think**, **feel**, or **say** about the problem?
- ~ What will they want to **do** about the problem?

Next, find your Rock Partner and talk about the Multiple Perspectives of this problem for 6 minutes. Towards the end of your conversation, each of you will need to choose one perspective to “embody” (pretend to be) and get ready to share with others who you are and what you think about the problem.

Who are
they?

What do
they think,
feel , or say
about the
problem?



Who is she?

What does
she think,
feel, or say
about the
problem?



Who is he?

What does he think, feel, or say about the problem?



Task Four: Solve the Problem

Working as a team, using only the materials provided, design and build a model of a pull-powered tool that citizens can use to get the trash away from their homes and off their streets.

At 1:00 we will test your tool to see how many pounds of “trash” it can move.



Set-up group roles.

Talk about your
plan-of-action.

Organize your time.

Proceed!



Our Team Roles:

Idea Champion

Minute Minder

Plan Protector

Decision Helper

The Communicator



Is there anything that you could have done to improve your design? What improvement would you make? How would it help?



How did your teams do?

What do the members of a team need from each other to be successful in their work?

What are the habits of a strong group ?

But Wait... There's More...

How are they solving the problem, really?

In Roumieh village, Mayor Louis Abi Habib says when the garbage began to pile up, government ministers said that they were to do whatever they could to cope.

"So I said, great — you know, maybe this will give us the chance to do something ourselves," he says. "Maybe in times of crisis, there is a very good time to find solutions."

He mobilized his five village employees, and himself, to collect the village's garbage. Organic and inorganic waste are separated. Organic waste, like food, is collected four times a week (because it's smelly and attracts pests), and inorganic, like bottles and cans, once a week.

A youth football team helped explain the new system to Roumieh's 3,000 residents. For now, they're keeping the garbage in two plots of land, but they're looking into composting and recycling.

Resources:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/07/30/427535046/amid-political-dysfunction-beirut-residents-suffer-the-stench-of-garbage>

Google Maps

Google Images