

Seshat's WTF 3.0 Method Workflow

A Structured Approach for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Author: Marie Seshat Landry

Version: 3.0 – February 2025

1. Trigger Moment: WTF?

♦ **Purpose:** Recognize and articulate the **initial question** or **problem** that needs analysis.

Action Steps:

- ✓ Identify the **triggering issue or observation**.
 - ✓ Define the **initial question** or problem that **invokes curiosity or confusion**.
-

2. Initial Inquiry: The 5W+1H

♦ **Purpose:** Conduct a **foundational inquiry** to gather **essential information**.

Action Steps:

📌 **What?** – Define the **issue** and **gather basic facts**.

- What is the **problem or event**?
- What are the **key elements involved**?

📌 **Where?** – Identify the **location or context**.

- Where did the **event or problem occur**?
- Where are the **key stakeholders located**?

📌 **Who?** – Determine **who is involved or affected**.

- Who are the **main participants or stakeholders**?
- Who is **impacted** by the issue?

📌 **When?** – Explore **timelines and significant dates**.

- When did the **event occur**?
- When are the **critical deadlines or milestones**?

 **Why?** – Analyze the **reasons behind the issue**.

- Why did the **event happen**?
- Why are **stakeholders involved**?

 **How?** – Assess the **processes and mechanisms**.

- How did the **issue develop**?
 - How were **decisions made**?
-

3. Search and Research: Bing/Google Search

♦ **Purpose:** Gather **additional information** and **perspectives** to support the analysis.

Action Steps:

- ✓ Perform a **Bing/Google search** to find **relevant data, articles, and reports**.
 - ✓ Use **search queries based on the 5W+1H framework**.
 - ✓ Compile and **evaluate search results** to ensure **accuracy and relevance**.
-

4. Apply Critical Thinking Methods

♦ **Purpose:** Use established **critical thinking techniques** to deepen the analysis.

Action Steps:

 **Socratic Method** – Challenge **assumptions** through questioning.

- What **assumptions** are being made?
- What **evidence supports or refutes** these assumptions?

 **Bloom's Taxonomy** – Apply **cognitive skills from basic to complex**.

1. **Remember** – Recall key facts.
2. **Understand** – Interpret and comprehend data.
3. **Apply** – Use knowledge in new situations.
4. **Analyze** – Break down complex information.
5. **Evaluate** – Judge the **validity of claims**.

6. **Create** – Formulate **new solutions**.

📌 **Paul-Elder Model** – Evaluate reasoning based on:

✓ **Clarity** ✓ **Accuracy** ✓ **Relevance** ✓ **Logic**

📌 **Six Thinking Hats (Edward de Bono)** – Examine the issue from **multiple perspectives**:

- **Red Hat** – Emotional/intuitive perspective.
- **White Hat** – Objective facts and data.
- **Black Hat** – Risks and challenges.
- **Yellow Hat** – Benefits and values.
- **Green Hat** – Alternative solutions.
- **Blue Hat** – Process organization.

📌 **Scientific Method** – Formulate and test **hypotheses**.

- ✓ Develop a **hypothesis**.
- ✓ Gather **data** and **experiment**.
- ✓ Analyze **results** and **draw conclusions**.

📌 **TRIZ (Inventive Problem-Solving)** – Identify **contradictions** and apply **innovative solutions**.

📌 **Deductive and Inductive Reasoning** – Logical analysis techniques:

- **Deductive Reasoning**: Starts with **general principles**, reaches **specific conclusions**.
- **Inductive Reasoning**: Starts with **specific observations**, forms **general theories**.

📌 **Fermi Estimation** – Make **approximate calculations** for predictions.

📌 **Systems Thinking** – Analyze **interactions within a complex system**.

📌 **Lateral Thinking (De Bono)** – Use **creative strategies** to find **unconventional solutions**.

📌 **Bayesian Thinking** – Update **probabilities** based on **new evidence**.

📌 **Mind Mapping** – Visually organize **relationships and key ideas**.

📌 **SWOT Analysis** – Assess:

✓ **Strengths** ✓ **Weaknesses** ✓ **Opportunities** ✓ **Threats**

📌 **Root Cause Analysis (RCA)** – Identify the **underlying cause** of an issue.

📌 **Causal Loop Diagrams** – Map out **feedback loops** and **cause-effect** relationships.

📌 **Complexity Theory** – Analyze **emergent patterns** in **complex systems**.

📌 **Decision Tree Analysis** – Map out **decisions** and **potential outcomes**.

📌 **Scenario Planning** – Develop **future scenarios** and **risk assessments**.

5. Integrate Findings

- ♦ **Purpose:** Synthesize **results from inquiry** and **critical thinking methods**.

Action Steps:

- ✓ Combine insights from the **5W+1H analysis** and **critical thinking methods**.
 - ✓ Develop a **comprehensive understanding** of the issue.
 - ✓ Create **actionable recommendations** based on the findings.
-

6. Communicate and Implement

- ♦ **Purpose:** Share findings and execute solutions.

Action Steps:

- ✓ **Prepare a detailed report** outlining key findings and recommendations.
 - ✓ Use **effective communication channels** to present the report.
 - ✓ Develop and **implement an action plan** based on recommendations.
-

7. Reiteration and Feedback

- ♦ **Purpose:** Evaluate effectiveness and refine the approach.

Action Steps:

- ✓ Assess the **impact of implemented solutions**.
- ✓ Collect **feedback from stakeholders** and evaluate **results**.
- ✓ Adjust **methods and strategies** based on **new information**.

8. Final WTF Report

- ♦ **Purpose:** Document and present the **comprehensive analysis and solutions**.

Action Steps:

- ✓ **Introduction** – Overview of the issue and **WTF moment**.
 - ✓ **Inquiry Results** – Present **5W+1H findings**.
 - ✓ **Search Findings** – Summarize **Bing/Google research**.
 - ✓ **Critical Thinking Analysis** – Detail **application of reasoning methods**.
 - ✓ **Integrated Findings** – Present **synthesized insights and recommendations**.
 - ✓ **Action Plan** – Outline the **steps for implementation**.
 - ✓ **Evaluation** – Describe the **monitoring and refinement process**.
-

Conclusion

This **WTF 3.0 Workflow** is a **structured, interdisciplinary approach** for solving **complex issues** using:

- ✓ **Foundational Inquiry (5W+1H + Search Research)**
- ✓ **Advanced Critical Thinking Models**
- ✓ **Falsification-Based Reasoning & Analysis**
- ✓ **Structured Intelligence & Reporting**