Assignment 1: Defining Problems (10%)

Oftentimes when dealing with a challenging situation, the impulse is to focus on the symptoms and leap to solutions rather than understand the root cause of the symptoms. The purpose of this assignment is to gain experience in developing well thought out and accurate problem definitions through completing root cause analysis.

What you need to do

- Watch the videos on problem definition.
- Review the Defining Problems PPT, focusing especially on the “improving problem definition” slides.
- Complete a problem definition for one of the following challenges:
    - Nurses are tired and overworked
    - The earth’s temperature is rising
    - Housing is unaffordable

Complete your problem definition using the “improving problem definition” techniques from the videos and the PPT deck and clearly distinguish between the problem and the symptoms. No solutions are required for this assignment; however, demonstrating a clear understanding of the depth and breadth of the problem, **and how you used the techniques to define the problem**, is required to achieve full marks. You are encouraged to use (and properly cite) the improving problem definition techniques and external research and sources to define your problem (see rubric for how to do well in this assignment).

You can submit this in any format you like (video, audio, document, animated video etc.) so long as the rubric requirements are met, and I can understand and see your process.

Grading

10.0 – 9.5	*9.4 – 8.0*	*7.9-5.0*	*4.9 – 0.0*
Excellent, rock-star problem definition *At least two (2) problem definition techniques were applied* *Thorough analysis* *Excellent breakdown of problem and complete distinction between the problem and symptoms* *APA citation completed accurately and completely* *At least three (3) external sources referenced*	*Great problem definition* *At least two (2) problem definition techniques were applied* *Strong analysis but may be missing a few details* *Clearly broke problem down and distinguished between the problem and symptoms* *APA citation completed accurately and completely* *At least two (2) external sources referenced*	*Satisfactory problem definition* *At least one (1) problem definition technique was applied* *Minor analysis completed and notable details missing* *Problem is broken down, however there's some confusion between the problem and the symptoms* *APA citation completed accurately and completely* *At least one (1) external source referenced*	*Weak problem definition* *Unclear if problem definition techniques were applied* *Weak or missing analysis* *Problem is not well broken down or understood, however there's some confusion between the problem and the symptoms* *APA citation missing* *No external sources referenced*