* Create an 8–10 slide PowerPoint presentation that defines a business problem, explains how the problem affects an organization, and describes possible solutions. Recommend the best solution for the problem and organization, and justify the recommendation.

The ability to effectively solve complex business problems is critical to sustaining organizational quality, essential to achieving strategic goals (Deutsch, 2013). Van Aken, Berends, and Van Der Bijthe (2012, p. xiv) note that in solving business problems the "focus is on designing what can be, or what should be, in order to improve the performance of a specific business system on one or more criteria."

[Show Less](https://courserooma.capella.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=_85938_1&content_id=_5712937_1&mode=reset)

By successfully completing this assessment, you will demonstrate your proficiency in the following course competencies and assessment criteria:

* + Competency 1: Explain the underlying principles of successful business.
    - Explain how a business problem affects an organization
    - Explain how a solution to a business problem will result in increased sustainability.
  + Competency 3: Solve business problems using critical and creative thinking.
    - Describe solutions to a business problem.
    - Explain the advantages and limitations of solutions to a business problem.
    - Recommend a solution to a business problem.
    - Support a recommended solution to a business problem with relevant evidence.
  + Competency 5: Communicate in a manner that is scholarly, professional, and consistent with expectations for the field of business.
    - Write coherently using correct grammar, usage, and mechanics.
* To deepen your understanding, you are encouraged to consider the questions below and discuss them with a fellow learner, a work associate, an interested friend, or a member of your professional community.
  + What problem-solving strategies have been most effective in your professional life? How did you know they were effective?
  + What areas of business are you most interested in? Within such areas how might you solve a business problem?

[Hide Course Menu](https://courserooma.capella.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=_85938_1&content_id=_5712937_1&mode=reset)



Menu Management Options

* [Refresh](https://courserooma.capella.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=_85938_1&content_id=_5712937_1&mode=reset)
* [Display Course Menu in a Window](https://courserooma.capella.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=_85938_1&content_id=_5712937_1&mode=reset)

Applying critical thinking and effective decision making in your professional life will help you better understand the factors that influence your thinking, as well as the potential implications of your decisions as you solve complex business problems. Effective decision making requires the ability to consistently identify and choose the best option from multiple possibilities. It also requires creativity and logic.

https://courserooma.capella.edu/images/ci/icons/generic_updown.gifQuestions to Consider

To deepen your understanding, you are encouraged to consider the questions below and discuss them with a fellow learner, a work associate, an interested friend, or a member of your professional community.

* + What problem-solving strategies have been most effective in your professional life? How did you know they were effective?
  + What areas of business are you most interested in? Within such areas how might you solve a business problem?

**Suggested Resources**

The following optional resources are provided to support you in completing the assessment or to provide a helpful context. For additional resources, refer to the Research Resources and Supplemental Resources in the left navigation menu of your courseroom.

**Library Resources**

The following e-books or articles from the Capella University Library are linked directly in this course:

* + Greengard, S. (2009). [Are we losing our ability to think critically?](http://dx.doi.org.library.capella.edu/10.1145/1538788.1538796) *Communications of the ACM*, *52*(7), 18–19.
  + Ayad, A. (2010). [Critical thinking and business process improvement](http://search.proquest.com.library.capella.edu/docview/578107422?accountid=27965). *The Journal of Management Development*, *29*(6), 556–564.
  + Karr, S. S. (2009). [Critical thinking: A critical strategy for financial executives](http://search.proquest.com.library.capella.edu/docview/208870864?accountid=27965). *Financial Executive*, *25*(10), 58–61.
  + Knieriem, A., Silverman, C., Eichen, S., & Moriarty, K. (2014). [Focus on corporate sustainability](http://search.proquest.com.library.capella.edu/docview/1506763427?accountid=27965). *The Corporate Governance Advisor*, *22*(2), 30–34.
  + Hopkins, W. E., Hopkins, S. A., & Mitchell, B. C. (2008). [Ethical consistency in managerial decisions](http://ezproxy.library.capella.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=31563812&site=ehost-live&scope=site). *Ethics and Behavior*, *18*(1), 26–43.
  + Crist, R. (2013). [Technologies help manage growth in young franchise marketing departments](http://search.proquest.com.library.capella.edu/docview/1459203314?accountid=27965). *Franchising World*, *45*(10), 56–57.
  + Jameson, D. A. (2009). [What's the right answer? Team problem-solving in environments of uncertainty](http://ezproxy.library.capella.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=39144616&site=ehost-live&scope=site). *Business Communication Quarterly*, *72*(2), 215–221.

**Course Library Guide**

A Capella University library guide has been created specifically for your use in this course. You are encouraged to refer to the resources in the [BUS-FP3007 – Developing a Business Perspective Library Guide](http://capellauniversity.libguides.com/BUSFP3007) to help direct your research.

**Internet Resources**

Access the following resources by clicking the links provided. Please note that URLs change frequently. Permissions for the following links have either been granted or deemed appropriate for educational use at the time of course publication.

* + Elder, L., & Paul, R. (2013). [Becoming a critic of your thinking](http://www.criticalthinking.org/articles/becoming-a-critic.cfm). Retrieved from http://www.criticalthinking.org/articles/becoming-a-critic.cfm

**Preparation**

Begin your preparation work for this assessment by selecting a business-related topic. This can be a business topic you would like to research to gain new insight that will be helpful to you in your current work environment, or it might simply be a business topic you are interested in. Some examples of business topics include:

* + Workplace diversity.
  + Management techniques.
  + Globalization.
  + Marketing trends.
  + Change management.

As you choose your topic, think about how knowing more about that topic will improve your career or advance your organization's mission. Selecting an appropriate topic will enable you to develop a sound argument that is supported by expert knowledge.

Once you have your topic, think about a problem or challenge associated with that topic. For example, if your topic is workplace diversity, the associated problem might be the challenge faced by organizations in creating a productive, healthy, and supportive work environment.

Next, research your topic and problem. Locate 3–7 expert resources on the topic. The resources you choose will help you to define the focus of your research and writing. For example, if your topic is workplace diversity and your problem is how organizations can create a productive and supportive work environment, your research may lead you to focus on how company policies can influence the work environment. Your research should also help you develop possible solutions to the problem.

Now, suppose the topic and problem you have selected are also primary concerns for your organization's leadership. You have been asked to research the topic and problem and prepare a presentation for the executive board that incudes your evaluation of the problem and your recommendation for a solution.

**Requirements**

Develop a PowerPoint presentation on the business topic and problem you selected. Use the *notes* feature of each slide to expand your bullet points and reference your resources. You must still follow APA guidelines for your in-text citations and all references. Be sure you include a title slide and reference slide.

Within the body of your PowerPoint, complete the following:

* + Define the problem.
  + Explain how the problem affects the organization.
  + Outline possible solutions to the problem that you found in your research.
  + Explain the advantages and limitations of each solution.
  + Recommend the solution you feel is best for the company.
  + Explain how your solution will result in sustainability for the company.
  + Justify your recommendation.

**Additional Requirements**

* + Formatting: APA formatted, including a title slide and reference page slide.
    - Follow APA guidelines for in-text citations and references.
  + References: Use 3–7 current scholarly or professional resources.
  + Slide Show length: 8–10 slides, in addition to the title slide and reference slide.
    - Consider your audience and develop your presentation accordingly.

**Reference**

Deutsch, C. (2013). The seeking solutions approach: Solving challenging business problems with local open innovation. Retrieved from http://timreview.ca/article/664

van Aken, J., Berends, H., & van der Bij, H. (2012). *Problem solving in organizations: A methodological handbook for business and management students* (2nd ed.). Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.