

## THE 7 PROBLEMS WITH PROBLEMS

1. The problem that you articulated is simply the absence of the thing you want to do or build or the outcome you want to be true.
2. The problem is articulated without referencing any people—those experiencing it or those creating or perpetuating it.
3. The problem explicitly or implicitly blames those experiencing the issue for its existence, usually by framing the problem as deficiencies or flaws in a group of people.
4. The problem that has been identified is just a symptom but treated as a root cause.
5. The problem is described at the level of individuals, absent institutional, systemic, or ideological factors that are also at play.
6. The problem is described absent the history of how it came to be.
7. We try to solve the problem for everyone and end up solving it for no one. *Also known as:* We try to solve all the problems at once and end up solving none.

