



Court Leadership and Problem Solving

Issue #5

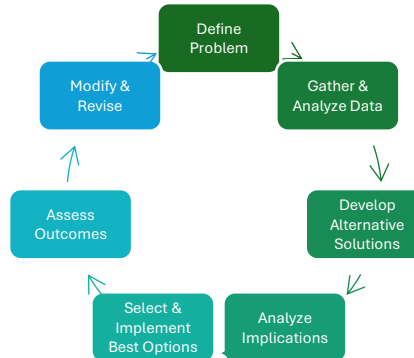
Date: 10/21/24

This Topic and Why

Court leaders continually face the need to solve problems. This series shares different problem-solving techniques. Models build from the traditional problem-solving pattern as depicted to the right and offer different approaches, and maybe inspiration, to use a process to resolve issues.

This issue offers a technique of problem solving using a process labelled as OODA or the OODA Loop.

Traditional Problem Solving



Focus in This Issue:

OODA Loop

OODA

- Observe
- Orient
- Decide
- Act

The Concept in Practice:

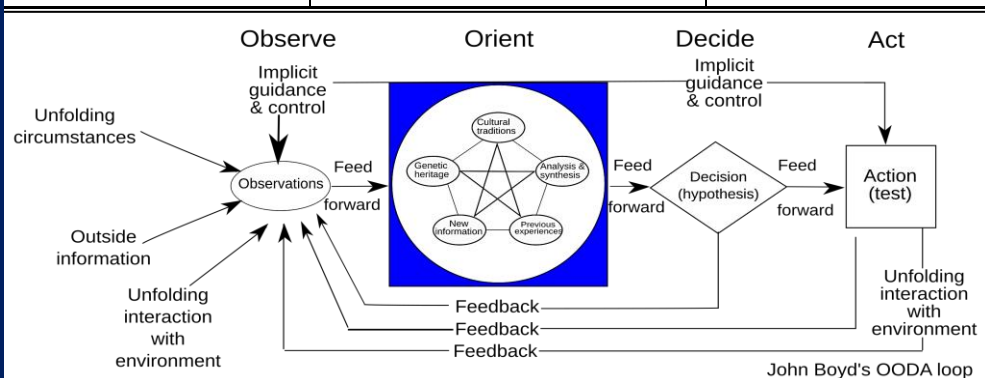
The **OODA Loop** model emanates from military and law enforcement problem-solving techniques. The concept, created in the 1950s, was used by Air Force pilots to achieve rational thinking in chaotic situations. This model uses four discreet steps to meet problems directly. The loop concept comes from the intention of interlinking, or looping together, the four elements of the model. The four steps or elements are:

- Observe—obtain information from circumstances, events, and environment
- Orient—get familiar with newly acquired information and analyze results
- Decide—determine action and direction to take
- Act—proceed, moving in the chosen direction

The OODA Loop works with instances of crisis or emergency, which require timely and decisive action. Sudden disruption may result in freezing or indecision. While courts do not have the same urgency as a military challenge, use of the OODA process positions leaders to focus their attention, gain situational awareness, observe, orient, decide and proceed.

Sample OODA Loop Worksheet

Observe and Obtain (List Information Observed and Obtained)	Orient and Become Aware (Indicate Features and Elements on the Topic)	Decide and Determine (Outline and Draft Details of the Targeted Action or Plan)	Act and Proceed (Identify and Document Actions to Be Taken)



Tips

- ✓ Use this model and worksheet prompts to structure instinctive problem-solving actions
- ✓ Practice use of the OODA Loop in different situations
- ✓ Consider adding a step to evaluate outcomes of actions

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Resources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OODA_loop

John Boyd, military strategist [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Boyd_\(military_strategist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Boyd_(military_strategist))

<https://thedecisionlab.com/reference-guide/computer-science/the-ooda-loop>

Revised 10/18/2024

