

Facilitator's Guide: The Brain Trust

Objective:

To dive deeply into a critical issue with your Innovation Question and the help of a trusted group of advisors.

Duration:

1 hour, per group, plus 10 minutes for introduction and 30 minutes for challenge development



TIMETABLE			
TIME	ACTIVITY	TIPS & TRICKS	MATERIALS
10 min	Introduction State the objectives of the exercise and emphasize that this is a chance to hear all of the expertise in the room. Everyone has expertise to share.	Use the slides below to guide your team through the exercise.	n/a
30 min	Challenge Development Divide into groups and develop a challenge related to the topic at hand – for example, your Innovation Question.	Use the challenge development time to come up with a relevant and important issue.	n/a
60 min	Group Work: The Brain Trust Put groups into “group pairs”. Elect a facilitator for each group to keep time and summarise each step. Each group takes a turn to describe their challenge and receive feedback from advisors. Use the worksheet below to help guide the conversation.	Times for each step can be extended if you would like to do a longer and more detailed Brain Trust	Printed Brain Trust Worksheets

Slides & Worksheet

You can use the following slides and worksheet to guide your team through the exercise.

The logo consists of the letters 'DG' stacked above 'MT' in white, set against a blue square background.

The Brain Trust

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The Brain Trust: Choose Your Path for Your Innovation Question

- I/we still need to define our question and test new ideas.

**Adoption
Challenge**



- I/we need help figuring out what is working & what to do more/less of.

**Execution
Challenge**

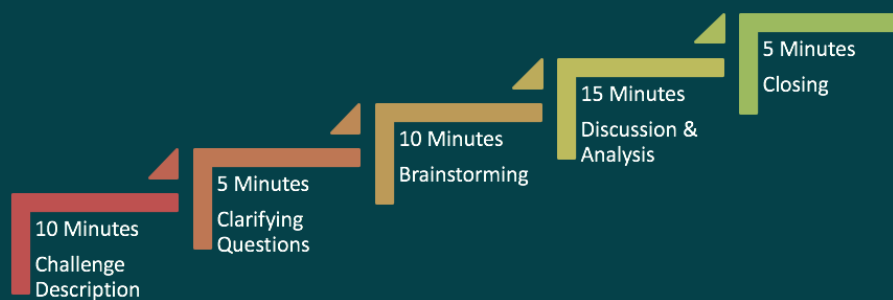


- I/we need help thinking about how to lead further innovation in our organisation.

**Leading
Challenge**



Brain Trust Process





Brain Trust Worksheet

1. Challenge Description (10 Minutes) – Advisors should already have a basic understanding of your situation; provide a brief update and clearly state what they hope to get out of this session.

2. Clarifying Questions (5 Minutes) – This is an opportunity for Advisors to ask questions that can better help them understand the situation.

3. Brainstorming (10 Minutes) – Ask Advisors to simply list as many solutions as might be possible, without any criticism or even analysis of these ideas. During these 10 minutes the subject is to remain completely silent.

4. Discussion and Analysis (15 Minutes) – Fellow(s) decides which of the suggestions seemed most promising. The group then analyses those selected ideas and suggests strategies to move forward, including possible outcomes for each strategy.

5. Conclusion (5 Minutes) – Fellow(s) identifies the most useful ideas generated during the session and clarifies any next steps.