**WK 7 Introduction**

In your work experiences and perhaps your undergrad degree you’ve been exposed to and studied continuous improvement.  Some of the more popular models are; Deming, Kaizen, Kanban, Six Sigma, Lean and Total Quality Management (TQM).  While some of the models are pretty elaborate, all consist of the following items.

Identify – Opportunities in the process workflow

Plan – How can the current process be improved?

Execute – Implement changes

Review – how changes are working

With the completion of your project, it is now time to review and reflect.  Why? Without a review and reflection you have no idea whether or not your decision is working. So regardless if your organizations uses continuous improvement or not, in order to know if your creative decisions are making an impact, you need to gather feedback, review and reflect.

**Objective:**

Evaluate the role of innovation in organizations

Develop skills for thinking with clarity

Analyze the design thinking process

**This journal has two parts**.

**Part 1** - Read the article: Find Innovation where you least expect it. <https://hbr.org/2015/12/find-innovation-where-you-least-expect-it>

After reading this article, evaluate a problem you recently worked to resolve in your organization.

Identify which of the 3 “Fixedness Traps” you feel hindered your innovation/resolution

Describe how you arrived at an outcome and if or how you broke through the fixedness or came to a predictable resolution. (Use Procurement/Supply Chain/Purchasing Department as an example).

What suggestions do you have for yourself or work team to move beyond it next time?

**Part 2** - Reflect on the what you learned about your thinking processes overall and how you view yourself as a thinker. What do you now understand about yourself and are you setting any stretch aspirations for yourself in these areas?

700 words

Reflective writing