



## How to research your season problem

One of the first (and one of the most important) things you will do as a team is define your season problem. Read the season materials supplied by FIRST® to fully understand that problem you need to solve. Then follow the steps below to to define your teams season problem. Your problem can be as complex as your teams wants, but remember, all team members should be passionate about it.

### Contact experts

- Who can your experts be?
  - They are anyone who works in the field you are researching.
- Construct an email and contact companies that relate to the season theme.
- Ask your coaches if they know anybody that could be an expert, and ask for their contact information.

### Research

- Go to a reliable website make sure to check when it was published to see if it was recent data.
- Go to your local library and check out a book on the subject.
- Look for videos that can explain the subject.

### Going off prior knowledge

- Going off prior knowledge can be very useful when it comes to defining a problem. You (or a coach/mentor) may have some information that can boost the team closer to success. Share your knowledge and let the team provide their view on the important parts.

### How to decide

- Brainstorm a problem topic based off of feedback or research.
- As a group eliminate your least favorite ideas.
- Vote to narrow down to one problem. Your problem should be something everyone on the team is passionate about.
- Sometimes a solution to your problem may already exist, that's ok, you can change the current solution to make it better. If you can't come up with a good solution to your problem, repeat the steps above to find a new problem to solve.