

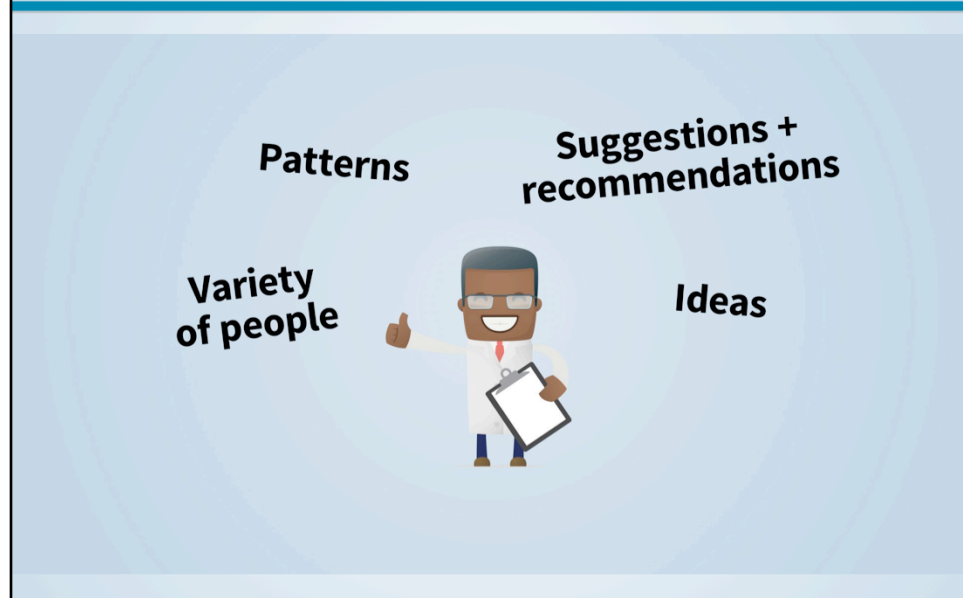
Team-Based Inquiry

Improve Phase



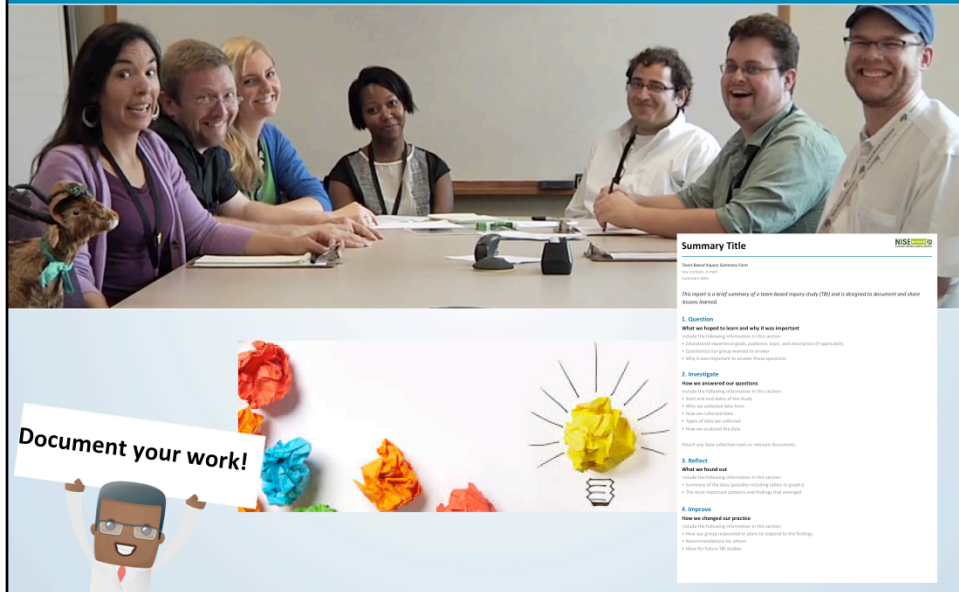
In this presentation, we will cover the Improve Phase of the TBI cycle, which brings your entire study...(mad scientist voice) to liliife!

You are ready for the Improve Phase



By now, you are highly attuned to the data you've collected about your exhibit or program. You know what a variety of people said about it, what kinds of patterns came up in responses, and you have an idea about the kinds of suggestions and recommendations that may arise from those patterns. You also probably have a bunch of ideas for how to improve the program... But where do you start?!

Reflect Phase



For this part of the TBI process, you and your team will come up with a list of ideas for improving or changing the project based on the feedback generated from your data collection, and then decide which to pursue. After that has been decided, you're nearly finished...! You'll also want to document your work and your TBI experience.

Identify the major findings

Make sure to focus on your TBI question!

- What are the major patterns and findings?
- How do they relate to the TBI question?
- It's OK if you need to reflect more!



Collect your TBI team to discuss findings and brainstorm ideas. Just like the Reflect Phase, make sure to remind yourselves of the TBI question and what you are trying to answer.

Revisit what the team found through the Reflect Phase. What were the major patterns and the findings that arose from those patterns as they relate to your TBI question? If your team goes back to the analysis process at this point, that's okay! You want to make sure everyone's thoughts about the data are on the table so you can most effectively move forward.

Generate ideas based on the data



As a group, take time to reflect upon and brainstorm possible changes or actions the team can take based around each finding. What project changes, new ideas, or maybe what floor layout modifications can you enact, to respond to the data? Create a list of ideas for each finding.

Group your ideas



Make sure to get ideas from everyone on the team.

Once the group has brainstormed a bunch of ideas for changes and modifications, or maybe even new topic ideas, group the various concepts into similar chunks. If there are redundancies in ideas, pull them all together so you have a single list of ideas and possible actions with which to work.

Prioritize your ideas



Any constraints?

- Time
- Money
- People
- Materials
- Other things...

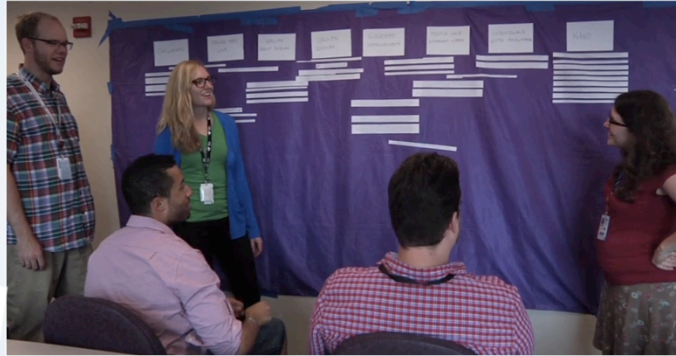
Revisit your Question Worksheet to remember what your limitations are—time, money, people, materials, other resources? Even if you come up with 100 possible ideas and improvements, if none of them are actionable, then none of them are actually effective ideas.

Prioritize your ideas



Take the list of ideas and begin prioritizing the improvements. It is best if the entire group is in consensus around what actions should be taken. If there is not consensus, take time to talk through the different points of view at the table about what would make the project more successful.

Prioritize your ideas



Stick to the facts!



It's important to make sure that the group remains responsive to the data and not to personal or subjective ideas of what might work. Stick with the facts of how visitors responded to, used, or otherwise shared their perceptions and thoughts about the project, and stay away from individuals' opinions.

Act on your ideas!

Identify who will do what... and when!



Once the ideas have been prioritized, identifying the next steps of bringing those ideas to life is up to the team—who will take action? On what timeline?

Don't overextend your findings



Do not generalize your study to other projects.

Your data is only useful for this TBI project and TBI question.

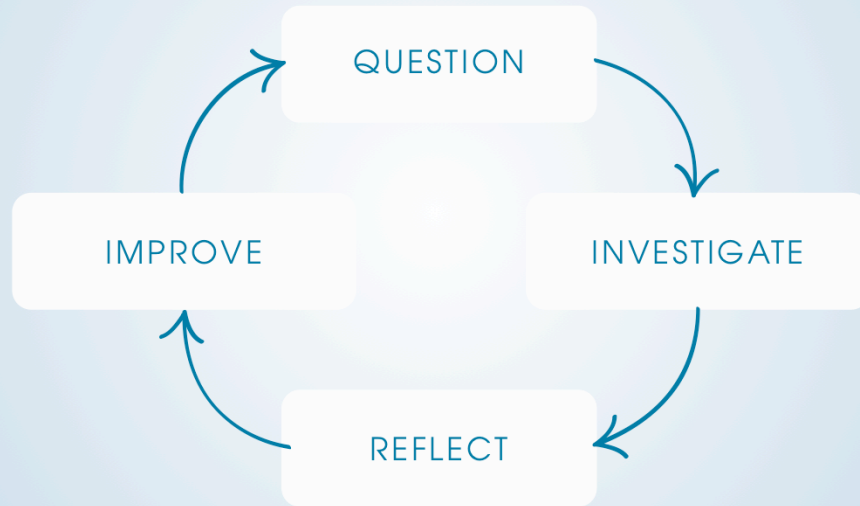
And speaking of the facts: Be careful not to overextend your findings. Remember that the results of any single study came from a specific, contextualized process. While you may be excited about your findings, and while their implications may be wide in scope, no findings are universal. Let your TBI answers answer your original TBI question, and no more.

Do you now have more TBI questions?



At this point, you may find that your team has a bunch of new possible TBI questions—will these ideas work? Are other ideas worth pursuing? Many groups find that answering one TBI question opens the door to asking and trying to answer many more... This is great!

Tackle another TBI question!



The Team-Based Inquiry model is purposefully cyclical, as it is designed to instill reflection and inquiry as a part of normal practice. So, go ahead, consider starting a new TBI study, creating more TBI teams, or tackling other parts of your museum! You have the technology... in the form of TBI tools!

Document your TBI study!

Summary Title

Team-Based Inquiry Summary Form
Key contact, e-mail
Summary date

This report is a brief summary of a team-based inquiry study (TBI) and is designed to document and share lessons learned.

1. Question
What we hoped to learn and why it was important
Include the following information in this section:
• Educational experience goals, audience, topic, and description (if applicable)
• Question(s) our group wanted to answer
• Why it was important to answer those questions

2. Investigate
How we answered our questions
Include the following information in this section:
• Start and end dates of the study
• Who we collected data from
• How we collected data
• Types of data we collected
• How we analyzed the data

Attach any data collection tools or relevant documents.

3. Reflect
What we found out
Include the following information in this section:
• Summary of the data (possibly including tables or graphs)
• The most important patterns and findings that emerged

4. Improve
How we changed our practice
Include the following information in this section:
• How our group responded or plans to respond to the findings
• Recommendations for others
• Ideas for future TBI studies

Finally, don't forget to document your process! One of the most commonly forgotten elements of TBI is the reporting, but this is often the most important step in developing a learning community and ensuring that your teams don't grapple with the same questions in the future, over and over and over again. Even through short sentences and bullet points, write up your TBI study so others can learn from it, discuss it, and apply it to future projects.

When the report is written, make sure to have the TBI team come together one last time to discuss it—it's the perfect way to ensure that everyone is in agreement on what was found, what improvements were identified, and how the team will move forward on enacting change.

Make sure all agree on the final report



When the report is written, make sure to have the TBI team come together one last time to discuss it—it's the perfect way to ensure that everyone is in agreement on what was found, what improvements were identified, and how the team will move forward on enacting change.



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