

Worksheet 2: Defining the Problem

After you have collected data about your campus and community, the next step is to define which problem you are going to work on. As you go through the worksheet, take time to consider the *who*, *what*, and *where* of each alcohol-related problem. Above all, remember to define your problem in ways that the campus and community can relate to and understand. **See *Step 2 in the Worksheet User's Guide for more assistance with this worksheet.***

Use the questions to below to fully describe the problem you are working on.

1) Where is the problem occurring? Name the specific location(s).
(urban, suburban, or rural? Which neighborhood, street, block or corner?)

2) Who is directly affected by the problem? (Neighbors, and people that have to pass that location? If appropriate, include relevant information about age, ethnicity/race, or other demographics.)

3) What does the issue look like? In other words, what would someone see, hear, or smell? (Consider things like trash, graffiti, noise, or stale alcohol odors.)

4) Is this a compelling problem for your campus community? Do community members see this as a problem and want to take action on it?

How do you know?

5) Is there additional information that you have that is helpful in defining the problem?

6) How will working on this problem make life better in your community? What are the specific benefits that will result from your work?

Now state the problem in 25 words or less:

Table 2: Defining the Problem

What is the problem? (e.g., Bars in downtown that cater to students)

Where is it? (q1)	Who is affected? (q2)	What does it look like? (q3)	Benefits of working on the problem? (q6)	Compelling? (q4)
<i>Strip of bars between 2nd and 4th Street and Taylor and Roosevelt</i>	<i>Residents of the area, other nearby businesses</i>	<i>Trash and litter, fighting and yelling on weekend nights, vomit and urine smells all day long</i>	<i>Community can enjoy downtown area, reduce # of outlets that cater to college students</i>	<i>Yes—residents are tired if it</i>

Key q = question from worksheet