What is it? Write down all the possibilities!
Brainstorm all the possible problems.

The problem we are going to focus on:
Brainstorm all the possible solutions.

The solution we will work toward:
Brainstorm all the possible action steps.

The action plan we will follow:
Creative Thinking Process

1. Understand the ______________
   • consider all challenges
   • choose one to focus on

2. Generate ______________
   • brainstorm ideas
   • choose one with the most potential

3. Plan for ______________
   • consider possible actions
   • formulate a specific plan of action

Be a Slinky Thinker!

Apply divergent and convergent thinking at each step in the process! Real creative thinkers think like a slinky, using both divergent and convergent approaches.

The tendency is to think divergently in the idea generation phase only. A true creative thinker, a Slinky Thinker, thinks divergently in all three steps in the process.
Understand the Problem

1. What are the problems or challenges?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

2. What problem or challenge will you focus on as partners?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?
3. Think **divergently** about the problem or challenge—what are different ways to look at this problem? Are there “little” problems inside this bigger one, or are there bigger problems underlying this one? List all of the possible related problems.

4. Think **convergently** about the problems or challenges listed above—what is the *real* problem to focus on? It may be the problem stated in #2, or it may be one of the other possibilities in #3. New problem statement:
Generate Ideas

Write down all of the possible ideas for solutions—think *divergently*!

Of all the ideas above, which seems to be the most promising?
Plan for Action

What are some possible ways to implement your idea?

Decide which action, or combination of actions, is the best plan for you. Write your final plan of action here.