

Five Whys Table

| Team: ABC Internal Audit Department | | | | | Date: February 1, 2017 |
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| Issue: The stones of the Jefferson Memorial are eroding. | | | | | |
| Proximate Cause | Intermediate Causes | | | Root Cause | Proposed Solution |
| 1. Why? | 2. Why? | 3. Why? | 4. Why? | 5. Why? | |
| Why are they eroding? | Why are the stones washed so often? | Why are there so many bird droppings? | Why are there so many little black spiders? | Why are there so many midges? | |
| 1. Reason | 2. Reason | 3. Reason | 4. Reason | 5. Reason | |
| The frequent washing of the stones. | There are so many bird droppings on the stones. | A large number of birds gather to eat the abundant food supply of little black spiders. | They eat the millions of little midges around the memorial. | At dusk they turn on the lights at the memorial. Midges are attracted to the light, and dusk is their optimum time to mate. | Turn on the lights one hour later and the midges will disappear. |
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