

So ... Why DID we write all these articles?

Over the past couple of months, Doug Angle and Stuart Heggie have been publishing articles outlining their views on a variety of subjects. Things like: Why “Simply” in the company name? What are the basics of Project Management success? How does Bias creep into our decision making and lead us down unproductive or incorrect pathways so often?

Don't just fix a problem. Improve the underlying process that allowed the problem to develop.

Sigma Done Simply is not just a company. It is a work philosophy. Doug and Stuart have spent 30+ years each working on solving problems that affect business effectiveness.

In operations they've: uninked supply chains, tuned operational parameters to improve yields, reorganized work to enhance collaboration and improve customer service. And along the way saved their employers tens of millions of dollars.

On the market-facing side they've: improved pricing strategies, installed demand planning tools to ensure that a promise made is a promise kept, etc.

With experience in a wide variety of businesses including health care, food, packaging, manufacturing, and research, they've consistently seen common themes. Many of the problems are generic, even if they show up in specialized environments.

The over-arching goal with these articles is this: Problem solving is easier if you have a strong grasp of certain key fundamentals. These fundamentals apply no matter what kind of business you're dealing with. Some are intuitive, some less so, but all can be learned. And knowing all of this will allow you to strengthen and improve not just repair your business processes.

Looking back on the series of articles, we would ask you our readers to consider the framework we're using:

1. Develop a strong foundation in the basics of Lean and Six Sigma.
2. Keep it simple. Use the quickest, easiest method that accomplishes the goal.
3. Data trumps opinion every time. Learn to use it effectively.
4. Develop a Program Management approach for identifying and sponsoring great projects.
5. Use Project Charters to clarify the problem and the goal.
6. Pay attention to project management to ensure efficient execution.
7. Engage people to ensure each sees themselves in the improvement process.
8. Ensure line leadership is committed to implementing the project teams' ideas.
9. Recognize and celebrate project completions to spur on the next round of projects.

To be honest, we, Doug and Stuart, are just plain crazy about fixing stuff. We like helping people and teaching what we know. If we can help you, be assured we're there for you.

As always, if this is an area where experienced help could move you forward faster, give Sigma Done Simply a call! And as with all our articles, it can be found on the web here: <http://www.sigmadonesimply.com/articles.html> or on our Linked In company page here: <https://www.linkedin.com/organization/15220786/admin/updates>