

Discussion: Regarding the issue of income inequality, using everything we know, have discussed, and read about economics, what problem are we trying to solve? Let's put together a problem statement and try to describe what we want our policies to address, below...

Question	Answer
Question 1: <u>What</u> is the problem that needs to be solved?	Middle class, feeling fair about the world. Growing income inequality not all people have a living income. Imperative for equality of opportunity. Individuals unable to reach their potential. Lack of opportunity, upward mobility. Grinding poverty, means no dignity. Rules should be the same for everybody. Automation. Job mismatch.
Question 2: <u>Why</u> is it a problem? (highlight the pain)	Concentration of wealth at top puts whole system at risk, people don't believe in it., the capitalist order is at risk. Democracy in danger. The gulf is so huge, it is the factor in generating these disparities of wealth. No solution for the displaced workers. 15 wage absolutely needed, people need a living wage and employers should be able to do business in a way to provide it. Moral dimension. Risks to human dignity, at lower end. Rich end, greed, isolation
Question 3: <u>Where</u> is the problem observed? (location)	Nation by nation disparities, rural versus urban. Health care, affordable housing. Safety and policing in local communities. Public services. How tax dollars are invested and distributed. Cycle of poverty. Stigma issues. Ental health, people who suffer from it.
Question 4: <u>Who</u> is impacted?	Hourly versus salary. Everyone is impacted if economy falters. But in the end everybody in free market if the machine fails. Poor at greater risk, rich have a built in safety net. Women vs men, pay disparity. People of color. People without education, what sector you work in. expand education opportunities, more technical education. Idea of community college to everyone.
Question 5: <u>When</u> was the problem first observed?	Resource industries, potential for huge profit, and is in public domain, forests, minerals, wealth not spread around evenly as resources are exploited, under guise of risk. If we do not set expectation via legislation, these companies will not pay their way, defense, infrastructure, etc. policy arbitrage. Each new age, economic paradigm, inequality arises, as tech era evolves.
Question 6: <u>How</u> is the problem observed? (symptoms)	Increasing dependence on local safety for those who live near the edge, see covid. Disparity spent per pupil, property values drive investments in education. Rich kids more, poorer kids less. More education you have, more enriched learning legacy you can pass on to your kids. Erosion of class mobility. Fraternity and sorority system in u.s.
Question 7: <u>How</u> often is the problem observed? (magnitude, trend)	More observed in hard times, like Covid. Policy changes. Like with when they emptied the psychiatric institutions. Education alone will not be the answer to all of these issues. In homeless populations. Change in location, marriage status.