Type 1: Troubleshooting
Reactive problem solving based upon quick responses to immediate symptoms. Provides relief and immediate problem mitigation. But may fail to get at the real cause, which can lead to prolonged cycles of firefighting.

Type 2: Gap from standard
Structured problem solving that focuses on problem definition, goal setting, root cause analysis, countermeasures, standard, and follow-up activities. Its specific aim is to prevent the recurrence of the problem from reoccurring.

Type 3: Target condition
Continuous improvement that goes beyond existing performance or value stream. It seeks to eliminate waste, overburden, unevenness, or other concerns systematically, to deliver superior value or performance toward a target condition.

Type 4: Open-ended
Innovative problem solving based upon creativity, synthesis, and opportunity. It seeks to identify new problems, solutions, and opportunities. It achieves radical improvement, often a new product, process, system, or value for the customer well beyond current levels.