Evaluate Options
| **Rose, Bud, Thorn Tool**

This framework helps a user or group conduct an analysis by visually categorizing positive (rose), potential (bud), or negative (thorn) aspects of a topic (e.g., system, product, process).

WHEN

Use this tool at the beginning of a project to clarify different facets of the challenge and identify areas needing further evaluation and exploration. Use the tool as needed to help maintain agreement among the team.

WHY

Using the Rose, Bud, Thorn tool can:

- Help identify problems and insights.
- Give all contributors a voice.
- Promote constructive discussions.
- Build shared understanding.
- Analyze issues quickly.
- Organize research data.

HOW

STEP 1: Identify a topic for analysis. Possibilities include systems, products, processes, organizations, etc.

STEP 2: Pull together a diverse group of stakeholders, users, and subject matter experts.

STEP 3: Pass out red (rose), green (bud), and blue (thorn) sticky notes to participants and have them write the strengths, opportunities, and challenges associated with the topic. If colored sticky notes are not available, use red, green, and blue markers with plain sticky notes, or use a whiteboard with colored markers. Optional: Use the Rose, Bud, Thorn worksheet as your guide.

STEP 4: Encourage participants to generate multiple issues, insights, or ideas but only capture one per sticky note.

STEP 5: Group the colored sticky notes on a white-board or similar surface according to rose, bud, and thorn.

STEP 6: If desired, participants can group or cluster items further by priority or related themes and give each group a title.

INNOVATION **TOOLKIT**

Rose, Bud, Thorn Tool | Worksheet

THORN
Weakness, Negatives, Bad

Bud
Potential, Opportunities

ROSE
Strengths, Positives, Good

INNOVATION **TOOLKIT**