

# All About the Problems

# When Projects Attack

Delays (avoidable or otherwise):

set hard deadlines

decide what you **HAVE** to have to move forward

use your power(s)

Not enough money:

Be upfront about what you can do

Which deliverables will have the most impact?  
those are your primary goals

Don't delay in identifying how to save money

# When Team Members Are Unsuccessful

Is it a personality thing?  
A knowledge thing?

Play to people's strength

Never assume you understand  
what is going on with someone else

Offer training  
Offer an opportunity to discuss  
Draw a firm line in the sand

## When PIs are the Problem

“I am so ... (busy, important, overworked)”

be clear that time is money  
that everyone is valuable

that without their support,  
the project can't move forward

that you can't reconfigure  
everything because they have an issue

## You Can:

Document deliverables (or their lack of)

Document your attempts to meet/discuss

Write a formal letter of request

Do nothing

Do “the slow play” move (delay, delay, delay)

Cut off access to staff and resources

## When YOU are the Problem:

Allow team members or PI to suggest changes

Be clear that you no longer  
are useful to the project

Discuss clearly your problems/issues  
and offer solutions

Decide whether you still believe in the  
project and then act accordingly

Don't let it fester

Realize that Projects are like children, they need discipline, guidance, enjoyment, trust/faith, and a clear goal.



Your job is to make sure  
the Project stays alive

OR

to be merciful and end the  
Project's suffering before  
it causes a tidal wave of issues.