Equity Lab
Root Cause Analysis Tool – 5 Whys

1. Add categories of potential root causes to the left column.

2. Ask, "Why," would that be a potential root cause to the gap in the next column?

3. Ask "Why," about the 1st supporting reason and continue for the next 3 columns.

4. The category with the most supporting Whys would likely be a root cause to the gap.

Root Cause Category	Why 1? ➡	Why 2? ➡	Why 3? ➡	Why 4? ➡	Why 5?