

## Creativity & Innovation: Design Mini-Project

In this activity, you and your partner will design something that you feel there is a need for. This could be anything from a better phone to a device that improves air quality in schools. It is up to you to decide what there is a need for and how it needs to be addressed.

### Step 1: Discussion Questions

- What does creativity mean to you?
- Is creativity the same as innovation?
- Why might we as a class and organizations/leaders in general want to actively study these concepts?

### Step 2: Solo Brainstorming

- Brainstorm ideas independently/quietly without communicating with your partner.
- 5 minutes to come up with some ideas.

### Step 3: Empathy Discussion

- What is empathy?
- Why do you think empathy is the first step in the design process?
- What are ways innovators can practice empathy?

### Step 4: Partner Interviews

- Spend 2-3 minutes interviewing your partner about their design idea. Your goal is to take notes while asking your partner about the type of design idea they have, why they have it, what they like or do not like about it, etc. Do not make comments. Just question, observe, and take notes.
- After the time is up, switch roles and repeat.
- Be specific in your interview.

### Step 5: Decision Making

- Decide on which design you and your partner will use for the project. Utilize your communication skills.

### Step 6: Engineering Design Process

- Follow the steps of the Engineering Design Process to complete the project.

