

Name _____

Date _____

DESIGN PROCESS STEP 2: DEFINE THE PROBLEM

Introduction

Now that you've learned about a Nobel Laureate and the importance of their work in the world, it's time for *you* to take action to create the change in the world you wish to see.

You'll use the design process to complete your design challenge. Use this worksheet as a guide for the second stage in the design process: defining the problem. You may attach additional paper to this worksheet or use a notebook if you need more room for this step.

Step 2 of the Design Process: DEFINE THE PROBLEM

What does it mean to “define the problem?”

In step 1 of the design process, Empathize, you learned as much as you could about the problems and challenges faced by the people, communities, or the environment that present a cause you care about. You likely learned about many different challenges in the Empathize step. Now in Step 2, you'll narrow it down to one specific problem or challenge that your design challenge will address by writing a problem statement.

What is a problem statement?

A problem statement explains what the current state is (the problem) and what the desired state is (your goal). It will be your “north star” throughout the design challenge—a single statement you will always refer to as you move through the design process.

Let's get started!

1. Connecting to Step 1: Empathize

Thinking back to Step 1, Empathize, list all the different problems you discovered.

Person/Community/Environmental issue: _____

Challenges or problems faced:

- _____

- _____

- _____

2. Choose one problem

Now that you've listed several different problems you could work to address, narrow it down to one single problem or challenge you'll address in this design challenge. Trying to tackle too much at once is often less effective than focusing on one specific problem at a time. From the list you just created, pick **one** that you'll focus on for this design challenge and write it below:

Problem: _____

3. Use the 4 W's to break down the problem

Think about the one problem you identified as the focus for this design challenge. Answer the following questions to help break down the problem into pieces.

Problem (fill in):			
Who does this problem affect?	What is the problem?	Where is this problem happening?	Why is this a problem? Why is this problem happening?

4. Write your problem statement

Using your notes from the four W's chart, write a problem statement below that includes each of the four W's.

Example problem statement: ***Young people in my community are not getting the proper nutrition they need because they think unhealthy foods taste better than healthy foods.***

My problem statement:

You did it, great work!

Defining a problem and writing a clear and specific problem statement is hard work—but now you have a “north star” to guide you through this design challenge. Remember, no step in the design process has to be “final.” You loop back to any step at any time to make changes or updates.