

Activity Guide - User Centered Design

Overview

Designing a product requires you to think about the needs of your users, even if those needs are very different from your own. In this activity you will be designing a product from the ground up for the specific needs of a user.

The product you will be designing is a piece of **smart clothing**. For this activity consider smart clothing to be any piece of clothing that also integrates computing technology. It might have sensors that record data, change colors or display information, or even connect to the internet. Push the boundaries of what's possible. So long as your design **meets the needs of your user** it is appropriate for today's activity.

Define

Brainstorm Users

In the space below brainstorm as many different kinds of people as you can who might benefit from smart clothing.

Categorize Users

Create scraps of paper for each of your users. As a group or as a class **create categories of users** by grouping together similar types of users.

Choose Specific User

Choose a specific category of user to design for and write it here: _____

Brainstorm Needs

In the space below brainstorm the **needs, interests, and concerns** of your user.

Categorize Needs

Create scraps of paper for each of your user's needs, interests, and concerns. As a group or as a class **create categories of needs** by grouping together similar needs.

Choose Specific Need

Write the specific need your group selected: _____

Prepare

Brainstorm Solutions

In the space below brainstorm ways **smart clothing** could be used to help address the need your group chose.

Discuss Pros and Cons

With your group discuss the pros and cons of the ideas you brainstormed. In each case keep in mind **the specific need of your user**.

Try

Describe Your Product

In the space below write a short description of your product and **how it meets the needs of your user**.

Draw Your Product

In the space below **draw a picture of the piece of smart clothing** you want to create. Label the different components you will be adding to the clothing.

Reflect

Present Your Product

Be prepared to share your user, need, and smart clothing idea with your classmates.