

The Design Thinking Process

Your assignment for this project is to develop a better bandage for cuts or other injuries than is generally available now. You are to work through the design thinking process while doing this.

The design thinking process is composed of **five steps**. Given in order, they are:

Empathize and discover: Get to know your customer, his needs, his hopes, and the larger context within which the problem must be solved. Understanding the end user is core to your solution's ultimate success. *Make notes during your interviews. Compile them for use with your group.*

Define the problem: This can be the hardest part of the process, especially if the problem is open ended. What the customer believes is the need or problem may not be. Do Research. What are the obstacles? What has been tried already? Why did it fail? *Make notes while your group is working to define the problem. Also make notes and compile a bibliography as you do research. You should write a summary of the information you found while researching bandages and adhesives.*

Ideate: Brainstorm possible solutions. Do not pre-judge or shut down the creative process. In responding to others' ideas, practice "Yes and" not "Yes but....". Use an integrative approach: Is there a solution that incorporates all of the best ideas? *This step involves recording ideas on post-it notes. Obtain Post-Its from your teacher. Again, take notes during this process (and take a picture of your post-its).*

Prototype: Design a rough prototype for the customer's feedback. Let the customer experience it, try it out, think about it. *(In this project, developing a better bandage, you will not be able to produce a prototype, but you can write out a description, with an explanation of how it will connect or "stick" to a person. **You are to focus your discussion on bonding and intermolecular forces.**)*

Test and Evaluate: Collect the end user's responses and make further refinements. Describe your bandage to potential users and ask them how they would feel using it. Record the responses from the potential users. Make suggestions for changes to your prototype based on these responses. *Make notes about the results of this activity.*

Finishing the project:

You are required to compile and hand in the following in a folder:

1. Names of your group members.
2. Properly labeled notes from each of the five steps of the design project.
3. A summary of your research with a bibliography.
4. A printed picture of your post-its from the Ideate step.
5. A description of your prototype bandage. Describe what it will look like and explain what will hold it in place. Again remember to focus on bonding and intermolecular forces.