The School Design Game

Printing Instructions and Cards



Note: These instructions will create one complete deck of cards. For each group of 4-6 players, you will need to provide one deck.

Printing the different card types

To create your own deck from this document, you will want to print one page each of the following pages found below:

- Conundrum sheets 1 through 3
- Support sheets 1 through 4
- Pathway sheets 1 through 4
- The Start and Finish sheet



Printing the B sides

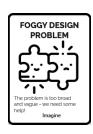
Next, print the B side sheet on the other side of each sheet type. So, for Conundrum sheets 1-3, print the Conundrum side B sheet on the other side of the page. For the Support cards sheets 1-3, print the other side using the Support side B sheet. For the Pathway sheets, print the other side with the Pathway side B sheet, etc.

The Start and Finish sheet does not have a B side so these cards will only be one-sided.

The finished cards should look like this:







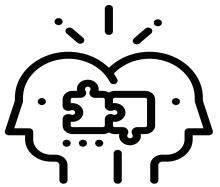
Conundrum Side B

Conundrum Side A

Scroll down to the next page for the sheets of cards



SOLUTION-ITIS!



We're jumping to solutions before understanding the problem.

Inquire

GOING NOWHERE ...FAST



Tangent after tangent after tangent. We're in a deep black hole of very little action. HELP! We don't have all day.

WHO? WHAT? HOW? HUH?



We're suppposed to do "research," but we don't know where to start.

Connect

TOO MANY IDEAS, TOO LITTLE TIME



We have competing ideas and don't know how to proceed.

Imagine

OFF TOPIC



"Have you seen this YouTube video?" The design session has gone off the rails!

S-U-C-C-E-S-S?



Nobody knows what it will look like for this project to "win."

Inquire

LET ME CHECK MY SCHEDULE...



Our project is stalled because no one has time to meet!

NO DATA, NO PROOF



We're testing our prototypes but no one is tracking their success.

Iterate

DATA OVERLOAD



We're testing our prototype and drowning in data! How do we know what's important?

Iterate

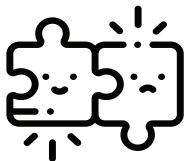
SHOW ME THE MONEY



We are excited to prototype our ideas, but there's no budget for implementation.

Iterate

FOGGY DESIGN PROBLEM



The problem is too broad and vague - we need some help!

Imagine

WHO'S THE BOSS?



No one on the design team feels comfortable pushing this journey forward. We need some direction!

Connect

ADMIT IT: WE'RE LOST!



The team has ideas but doesn't know what to do next.

Imagine

NEG-A-HOLIC



"He Who Shall Not Be Named" never shares constructive feedback and is always putting down the ideas of others.

Imagine

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



After conducting interviews with stakeholders, the team is still unclear about what we are doing.

Imagine

CYNICISM AT ITS BEST (WORST?)



We can almost hear "She Who Shall Not Be Named" rolling her eyes as we suggest ways to move forward.

THEY'RE NOT INVITED



We want to have more community members involved, but others disagree.

Connect

WE CAN'T "JUST DO IT"



Your team wants to spend a year testing out your ideas and review the data at the end.

Iterate

NO STUDENT INPUT



Oh no! We are forging ahead with a project that doesn't have any student voices!

Connect

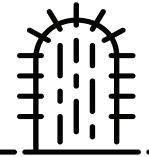
NOW WHAT?



Our team has tested several awesome change ideas that are making a big impact at our school. What's next?

Iterate

PRICKLY RELATIONSHIPS



At a community forum, several community members express frustration with the project.

NO COMMUNITY INPUT



Oh no! We are forging ahead with a project that doesn't have any input from parents, families or other community members who might be affected!

Connect

AVERSION TO RISK



We want to try new ideas, but the potential for failure is creating resistance from team members and administrators.

FEAR OF COMMITMENT



The design team wants to continue brainstorming, but when are we actually going to *do* something?

RELATIONSHIP STATUS: SINGLE



A team member wants to go it alone without any input from the rest of the design team.

CULTURAL CHALLENGES



Our team has gotten resistance or little interest from students and their families in our ideas for improvement. How do we engage them?

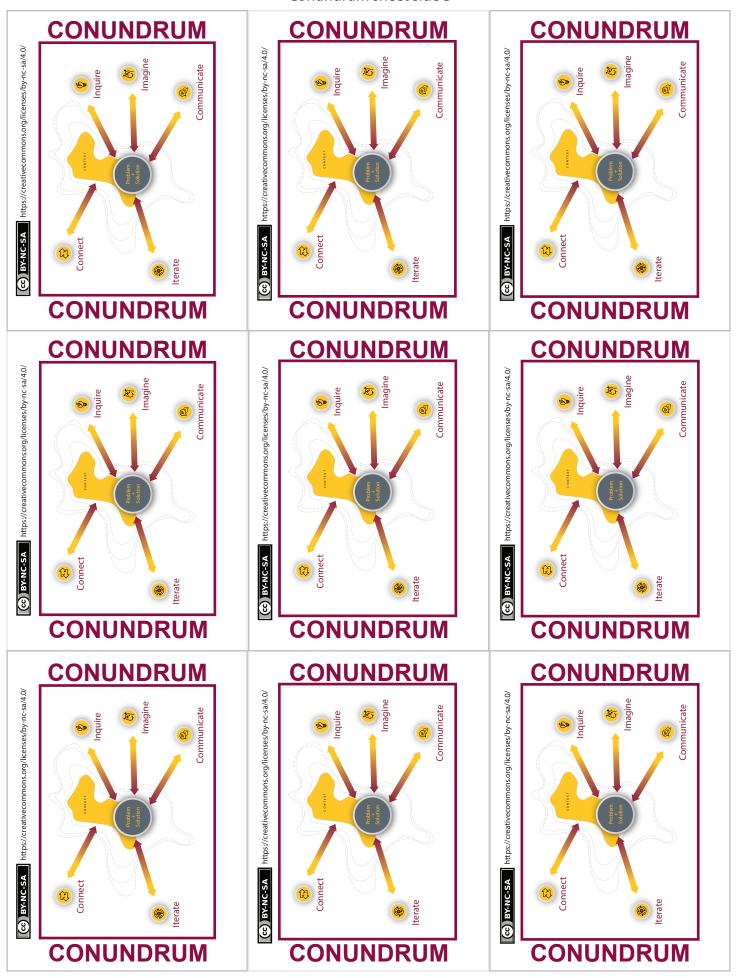
Connect

TEAM GOING NOWHERE



After doing some initial design research, the team feels stuck and they're worried this will just be another failed "thing."

Imagine



UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM



Interview users to better understand their experience and perspectives.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Backwards plan, and create a timeline with specific meeting dates and action-items. Create an accountability structure.

PRINCIPLED ANALYSIS



Using root cause analysis, determine what data would show an improvement while avoiding unintended consequences of focusung too much on data.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS



Identify a "hunch" you have about the problem. Conduct interviews with users to learn more.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS



Connect to with stakeholders by building relationships and identifying common goals.

REGULAR COMMUNICATION



Establish a weekly standing video conference meeting with a team of key people for the rest of the year. Revisit team norms.

EVALUATE IDEAS



Identify how feasible, impactful, and exciting each idea is for the team to guide your decision-making.

ESTABLISH SUCCESS CRITERIA



Identify key metrics by which your organization wants to measure growth / success. Describe what your end goals are.

DOCUMENT & MEASURE



Create a plan for gathering data and feedback. Assign responsibility for documenting and tracking.

EVALUATE AND PRIORTIZE



Map the system and explore root causes. Find a more specific, high-leverage, actionable problem.

PROTOTYPE



Push the team to select a high-leverage idea and try it out, even in a small way, to encourage momentum.

BE A SYSTEMS THINKER



Recognize how individual parts are influenced by their environment and interact to form a complex whole.

STUDENT INPUT



Interview students to better understand their experiences and perspectives.

CREATE A NETWORK



Find like-minded people who would be interested in launching a network around this issue and sharing ideas.

EMBRACE A GROWTH MINDSET



Identify fixed mindset triggers such as criticism that create defensiveness or negative feelings and talk through them to overcome

PLAN & MEASURE



Create a baseline measurement of the metrics that are important and measure changes as you test ideas.

BIAS TOWARD ACTION



Create a decision-making framework that encourages a focus on actions that our team can take.

UNDERSTAND CULTURE AND CONTEXT



Use empathy and asset-based appreciative inquiry to fully understand the lived experiences of communities and individuals

WILD CARD: DESIGN YOUR OWN STRATEGY!



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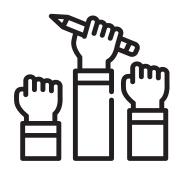
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COLLABORATION



Engage all team members in the discussion to collaborate and push forward.

TEAMWORK



As a team, create guiding principles that will push the work forward. Refer to these guiding principles throughout the journey to make sure the team is on track.

TEAM BUILDING



Refer back to the agenda / goals / objectives. Take time to build personal relationships with the team.

CELEBRATE SMALL WINS



Reflect on how far you've come since the beginning! Recognize the small steps you're taking toward improvement.

ACKNOWLEDGE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES



values important to indviduals, community, and learning environment and ensure that the process, structures, and solutions honor those values

FOCUS ON EMPATHY



Reflect on why others believe or feel as they do, even when expressing negative feelings. Communicate openly to address those feelings.

IMAGINE AND EXPLORE



Imagine what could be, generate uncommon solutions, consider consequences and test ideas.

DESIGN CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

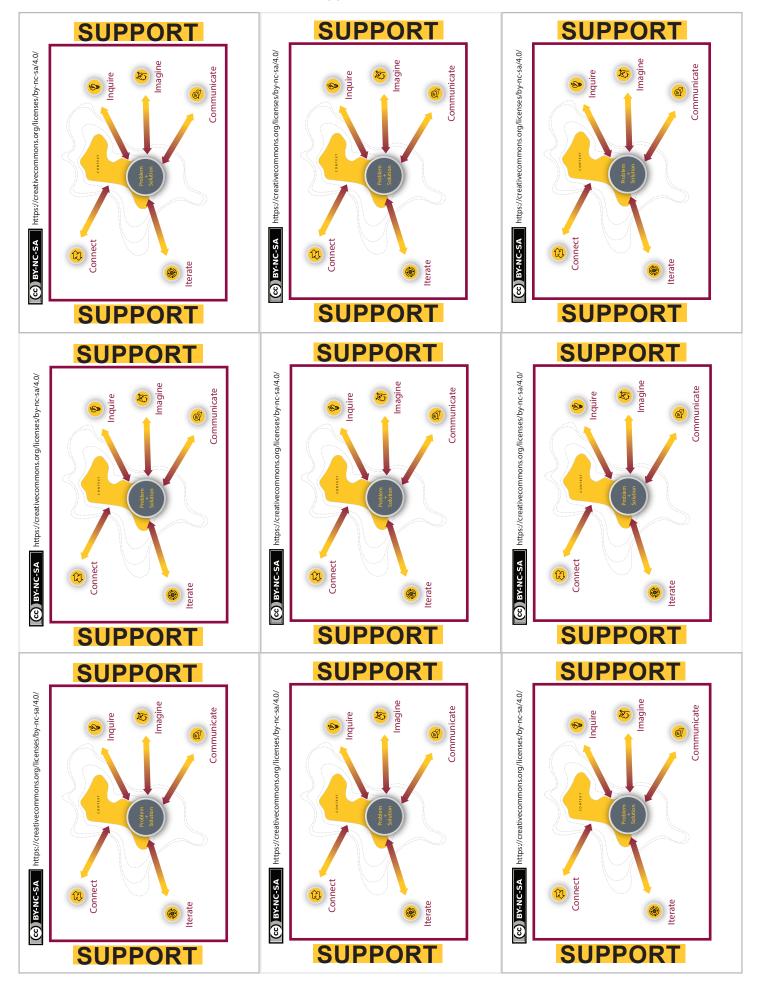


Work collaboratively with the community to generate innovative ideas to achieve the desired outcomes.

ASK PROBING QUESTIONS



Ask probing questions and listen without judgement to uncover key insights into a problem or challenge.



	Pathway Sheet 2		
SMOOTH PATH	SMOOTH PATH	SMOOTH PATH	
"Rely on experiments more than plans." - Cheryl Heller	"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." - Albert Einstein	"If you want to truly understand something, try to change it." - Kurt Lewin	
SMOOTH PATH	SMOOTH PATH	SMOOTH PATH	
"Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply." - Stephen R. Covey	"Fail often so you can succeed sooner!" - Tom Kelley	"Failing to appreciate fully the significance of context has often led good reform ideas to fail." - Learning to Improve	
SMOOTH PATH	SMOOTH PATH	SMOOTH PATH	
"The actual must always be seen in light of the possible." - Ann Pendleton-Jullian & John Seely Brown	"In the statement of the problem lies the solution." - Charles Eames	"Organizational empathy is demonstrated by the ability of its people to relate to and experi- ence the emotion of others ." - Thomas Lockwood	

who might be interested in

doing this work with us.

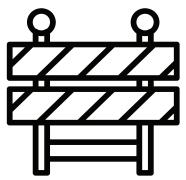
they approved at a public vote in

February 2019.

stakeholders to the table to

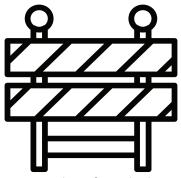
reimagine what school could be.

CANCELLATION



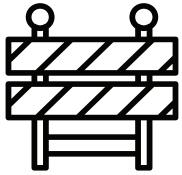
You and your partners just have too many fires to put out, and can't meet this week. You have been set back one card.

LOST MOMENTUM



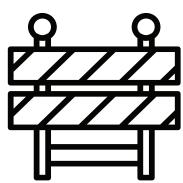
Team members from the last meeting didn't show up, making progress slow today. You have been set back one card.

CONSTRUCTION!



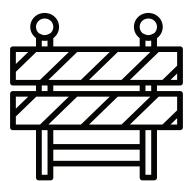
Traffic quagmire! You're 30 minutes late for an hour-long design meeting. You have been set back one card.

SNOW DAY



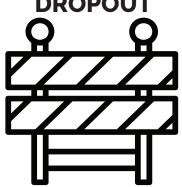
Everyone is homebound, and meetings are cancelled! You have been set back one card.

"HI, I'M NEW!"



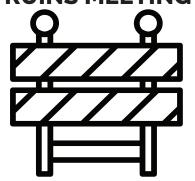
Someone joined the design team late and you need to catch them up. You have been set back one card

DESIGN TEAM DROPOUT



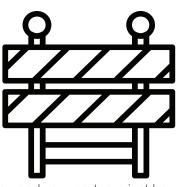
Several key design team members have dropped out. You have been set back one card.

SPOTTY INTERNET RUINS MEETING



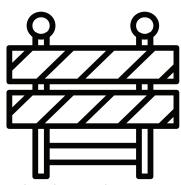
The video conference won't work because the internet is out. You have been set back one card.

CANCELLATION

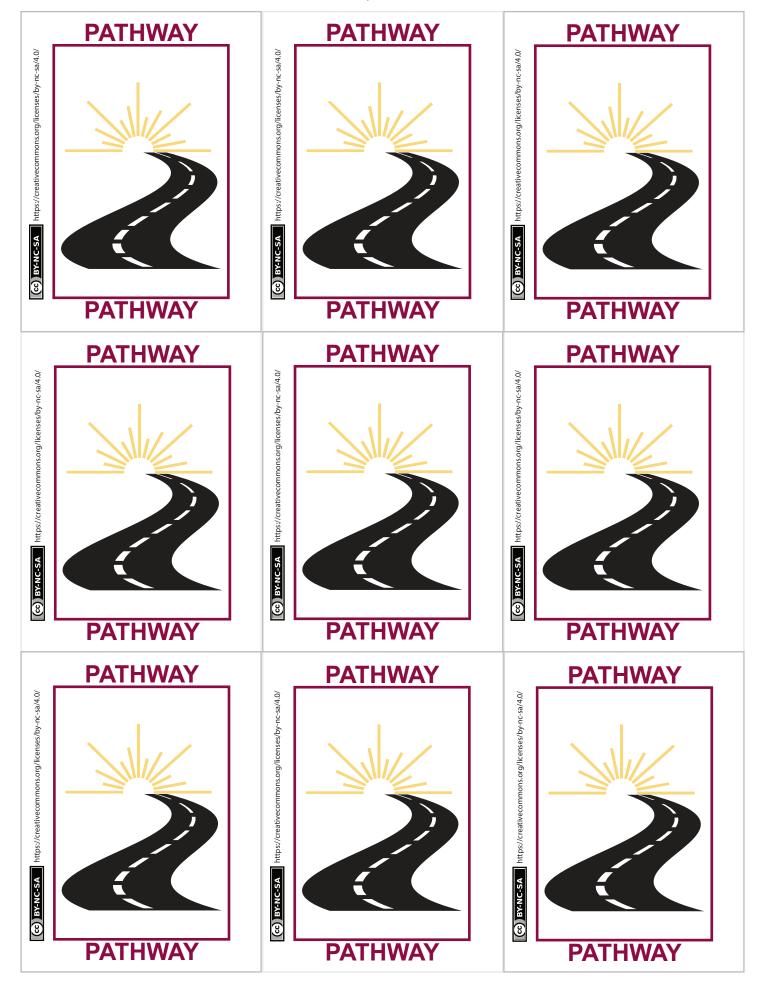


You and your partners just have too many fires to put out, and can't meet this week. You have been set back one card.

TEACHER STRIKE!



Teachers in your city are on strike with no clear end date. You have been set back one card.



Start and Finish sheet

