

Love's Creative SPARKS!

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The Love's Creative SPARKS contest asks us to consider what kinds of challenges keep our communities from being the very best they can be and do some problem solving about ways to address those challenges.

Lesson 1 had us think about "bridges," literal and figurative. Now, using that theme, the creative process will help us identify a community challenge. In this second of four lessons, teachers and students will explore their own creative potential as they **Identify their Community's Needs**.

Overarching Concept: *Form follows function*

The idea that the shape of an object should be based upon its intended function

LESSON 2: IDENTIFY COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RESEARCH THEM.

How can you bridge the gap between problems and solutions? What does your community need? *Identifying a community problem* is the starting point of your bridge. Begin by really considering what is important to you that you don't think is being addressed. This is a very creative step in the problem-solving process. (See <http://www.okaplus.org/> to find out more about the creative process.)

ACTIVITY:

Brainstorming - What does good brainstorming look like?

- **Prepare** - Start alone and generate as many ideas about community needs as you can in about five minutes. Write them down.
- **Incubate** - Take two minutes of silence to think about your ideas and see what else comes to you and add them to your list. Put your ideas up on the walls or white boards and walk around to read each other's ideas. (That's called a "gallery walk.")
- **Illuminate** - Group up and talk about what you read. Did many people have the same ideas? Were there ideas that surprised you? Now: *Build connections* by asking questions, explaining your ideas, and grouping common items. Think of ways you could literally bridge ideas, using such things as string or yarn to connect them. Then decide on a problem you will investigate individually, in groups, or as a class.
- **Implement** - Start by researching things about the community need you chose. (You may change your mind, of course.) Think of creative ways to summarize your findings and share them back with your class.

In **Lesson 3**, you will be identifying a solution based on your research, and building, literally or figuratively, your solution bridge!