

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 to do some problem solving about ways to address those challenges. Lesson 1 had us think about "bridges." Lesson 2 helped us identify a community challenge. In this third of four lessons, teachers and students move from generating ideas to identifying a solution and building, literally or figuratively, a solution bridge!

Overarching Concept: *Form follows function*

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

LESSON 3: FINDING AND DEFINING ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

Innovation can be defined as the application of new solutions. This lesson asks you to do just that -- create innovative solutions to meet existing problems incorporating the idea of bridging classrooms to communities and back.

ACTIVITIES:

- **Prepare** - Return to the problem and research you generated. As you begin thinking about a solution based on your understanding of the problem, identify potential roadblocks that stand between you and finding answers. Brainstorm with your classmates about these roadblocks and what risks you may need to take to overcome them. Chart out these strategies.
- **Incubate** - Now, take at least 24 hours to allow potential solutions to emerge. Create a graphic organizer to visualize each solution and associated roadblocks.
- **Illuminate** - Share your graphic organizer with a group and discuss the benefits and potential pitfalls of your ideas. With all of this feedback, focus on a single feasible solution and ask yourself, does your idea offer a solution that does not already exist?
- **Implement** - Most great ideas require collaboration. How will you inspire others to share your vision? Make a prototype, conceptual map/bridge, or project plan for your idea.

In Lesson 4, you will create a plan to market and promote your solution.