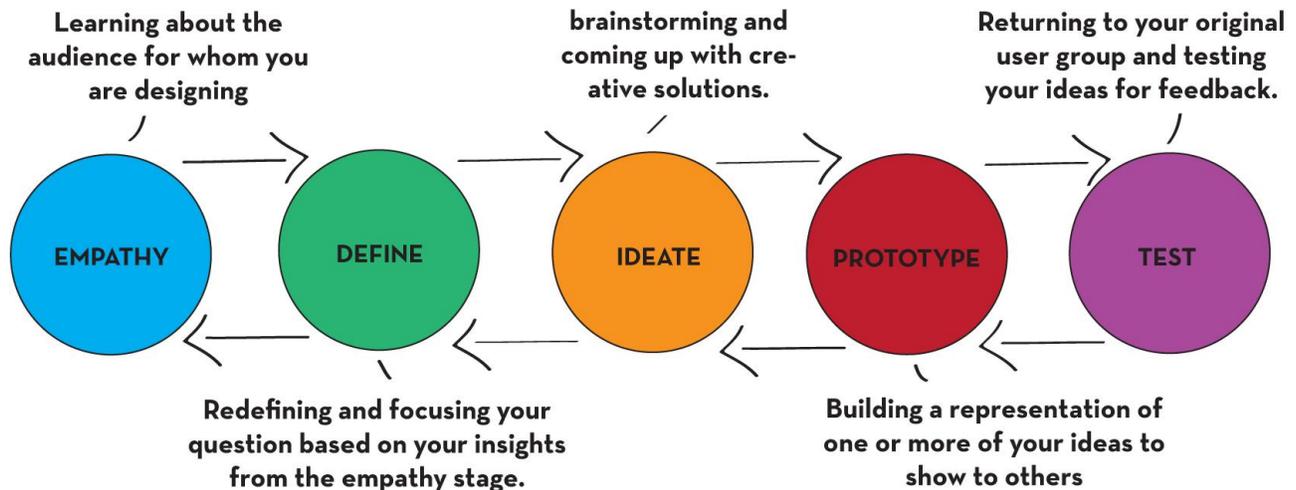# DRAMA 135: IDEATION
Project #1: Redesign the Educational Classroom (40 pts)

Refer to this Design Thinking chart as you go along…

Learning about the audience for whom you are designing

brainstorming and coming up with creative solutions.

Returning to your original user group and testing your ideas for feedback.

EMPATHY — DEFINE — IDEATE — PROTOTYPE — TEST

Redefining and focusing your question based on your insights from the empathy stage.

Building a representation of one or more of your ideas to show to others

Objectives & Goals:

- By this point in your academic career, you each are EXPERTS on classrooms and classroom dynamics. From grade school forward, you have been the product of education in this country, but what if you had the power to change not only how students are taught, but where?
- In 5 teams of 6, you are tasked with questioning your assumptions about how students are taught and in what context. How can a redesign of the classroom aid in teaching and student comprehension of a topic? How can we ideate new ideas from existing parts to create a new and innovative classroom environment?
- This project is *more* than rearranging chairs:
  - o You will be expected to interview classmates and "ask stupid questions" (Empathy), define problems with existing classrooms (Define), come up with crazy ideas and "Yes…and" the ideas of others (Ideate), and try out your ideas within given parameters and embrace your constraints as a catalyst for creative solutions (Prototype).
  - o Final projects should include a brief (TWO minute max) video of your process.
- ALL groups are given the same volume of space in which to redesign (based on our own classroom: 30' x 40' with 12ft ceilings and 2 entry/exit doors. Should you wish, you can use the Sketchup 3D computer model that I have created for your use.
- Documents that follow this description are visual aids only. Feel free to improvise!

Timeline:

- Final Presentations (5 groups of 6) are on **Thursday, Feb 9th.**
- Each group will get 15 total minutes (including video) – It is strongly recommended that you rehearse your presentation. Presentations that go over will be cut-off at 15 minutes.

Some tips/reminders:
- Keep your group honest when it comes to deadlines and ends each meeting by clarifying what is expected from EACH group member by the next deadline date.
- Set interim meeting times/locations between class dates. There is **NO** way you can accomplish all that is necessary for the project in class time alone.
- Use online tools to help you! A facebook group for posting stream-of-consciousness ideas, google documents/presentations for organizing them, shared Prezi, etc.
- Don't be intimidated by the enormity of the goal. Take little bites and move slow-and-steady forward with the project.
- REMEMBER to recognize that SIX of you WORKING TOGETHER can achieve A LOT!
- Embrace the concept of the Adjacent Possible: What tools are at your disposal now that allow you to innovate and improve a classroom for better learning?
- Grading will be partially determined by the evaluation of your fellow group members (the notecard method). So stay sharp and pull your weight individually.
- Be HONEST with each other while encouraging each new idea. Practice "yes and…" instead of "but..".

And **HAVE FUN** together! Creative ideas don't flow when there is anxiety present.

Groups are as follows (named for famous educators listed [here]):

Team Escalante:
Daniella Bursak , Giles Carr-Locke , Alissa Geller , Jonathan Schneider , Noah Nazmiyal , Anya Carter

Team C.S. Lewis:
Sam Gittleman , Jasmin Delgado , Kentrell Jamison , Omar Jeelani , Claire Petrus , Ethan Paik

Team McCourt:
Nate Engel , Isabel Leeds , Olivia Quinton , Preston Tasoff , Blake Miranda, Albert Wu

Team Sullivan:
Noah Saldana , Jake Williams , Jake Nathanson , Sam Fisher , David Huang, Mickey Bell

Team Wilder:
Christian Anyanwu , Max Helfand , Hank Hunter , Jason Tang , Jake Schaffer , Nick Blenko

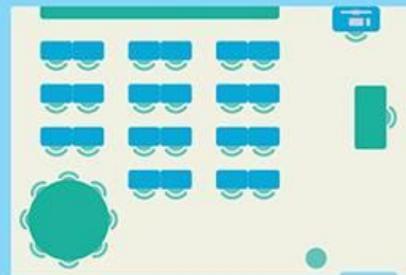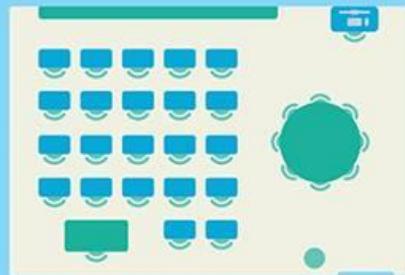A document for reference (if this helps?):

LAYOUT

Improvements to classroom layout, like creating space for independent work or making a clear pathway to access school supplies, result in a **45% INCREASE IN ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT.**
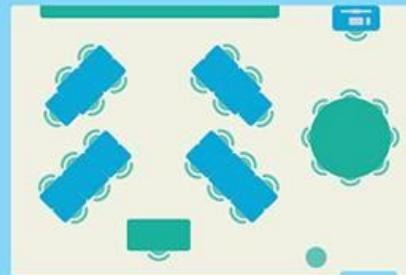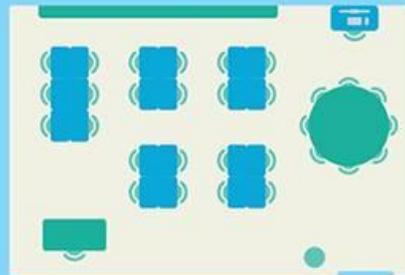
↑45%
ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

OPTIMIZE CLASSROOM SPACE

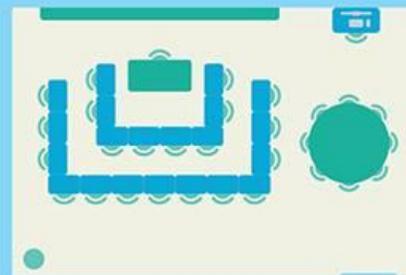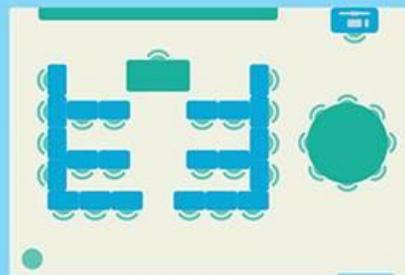KEY: STUDENT'S DESK   TEACHER'S DESK   COMPUTER   GROUP TABLE   TRASH

IDEAL FOR:
Independent work
Tests
Start of the school year

IDEAL FOR:
Group work
Learning stations

IDEAL FOR:
Demonstrations
Group discussions

USC Rossier
School of Education

Parameters for your Classroom Design: