

Design Solutions Sentence Stems

Why and When To Use

WHY Sentence stems can be helpful tools to practice using the *Design Solutions* competency. Thinking critically and creatively about how to solve problems, overcome obstacles, and improve things - all while collaborating with others - involves awareness and skills that the Design Solution competency can support. These stems can help you start to frame challenges, build prototypes, and test your ideas.

WHEN You could use these sentence stems in a variety of ways. You could use them as:

- reflection prompts for a journal where you reflect on design-based collaborations
- Ideation prompts when beginning a new design-based project
- guidance when analyzing a previous design-based project

What To Do

STEP 1. Print or bookmark this document.

- Sentence stems are most helpful when they are readily available to reference. Keep these in a place and a format that is most likely to be helpful for you.

STEP 2. Use the stems when beginning, navigating, or reflecting on a design-based project.

- You could use these when reflecting on your collaborations, ideating on a new project, or analyzing some previous work.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS SENTENCE STEMS

Identify an issue or design challenge

I think _____ isn't working well, and it could be made better by _____. [1, 2]

Getting information about these questions helped me understand the problem/need/opportunity better: _____. [1]

I didn't understand what _____ needed, so I asked them _____ and _____. [2]

I think _____ could help _____ by _____. [2]

A really good _____ would have _____ because _____ struggle with _____. [3, 4]

_____ is a serious problem for _____, because _____. I think it could be solved or improved by _____. [4, 5]

To understand _____, it's important to consider both _____ and _____. [4, 5]

Our solution to _____ will have to take into account that _____. [4, 5]

Because _____ are affected the most by _____, we should think about _____ for our solution. [5]

To understand _____ from multiple perspectives, I spoke to _____ because they _____. [5]

Another way to look at _____ is _____. [5, 6]

Although _____ sounds like a problem, it's also an opportunity to _____. [5, 6]

Based on what I gathered from _____, I think _____ because _____. [5, 6]

Although _____ seems simple and straightforward, I learned that _____ and _____ make it more complicated. [6]

One reason for _____ is _____, although _____. [6]

To understand how my idea for _____ would be received, I asked for feedback from _____ who are affected by the problem directly. [6]

_____ thought the solution to their issue that I offered was _____, because _____. [6]

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to the competency skill level(s) that align with the prompt.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS SENTENCE STEMS

Build models, prototypes, or action plans

I want to try and solve _____ by _____. [1, 2]

I could help fix _____ by _____, or by _____. [2, 3]

I built _____ to test out _____, which would help _____. [2]

Realistically, we can try _____ because _____, _____, and _____. [3]

We should try _____ because it will affect _____ by _____. [3]

Based on _____, I built _____ and made sure that it is _____ and _____. [3, 4]

To come up with some ideas for solving _____, I _____. [4, 5]

After talking to _____, I think we should test _____ and _____. [4, 5]

When we test _____, we have to consider its effects on _____. [5, 6]

When testing _____, I made sure to act ethically/legally/appropriately by considering _____. [5, 6]

When I built _____, I incorporated the input of _____ because they are most impacted by _____. [5]

I led _____ in generating some new ideas about _____ by _____. [6]

I built _____, making sure it is _____, in order to test _____ and how it affects _____. [6]

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to the competency skill level(s) that align with the prompt.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS SENTENCE STEMS

Test, act, iterate

I can try _____ to see if it does _____. [1, 2]

I can take these steps: _____, to see if _____ happens. [1, 2]

I could try to make my _____ better/stronger by _____. [1]

Based on what I learned by trying _____, I think changing _____ would improve _____. [2, 3]

The most interesting/ important/surprising thing that I learned from my model/prototype/action was _____. [2, 3]

When I followed my plan to _____, the results I got were: _____. [3, 4]

I was really inspired by _____, who did _____. [4]

Based on what _____ told me about how they use _____, I think changing _____ would improve it by _____. [4]

I tested _____ in the case of _____, but also when _____. [4, 5]

I want to thank _____ for their work on _____, which really helped me _____. [4, 5, 6]

I recorded what I learned from my tests by _____, and shared it with _____ by _____. [5, 6]

The most important thing(s) I learned from my tests are _____ and _____. [5, 6]

I improved _____ by changing _____ based on what I learned from _____, who knows a lot about _____. [5, 6]

I want to recognize and celebrate _____, who are really strongly impacted by _____. [5, 6]

I think _____ is/isn't a viable solution to _____ because _____. [5, 6]

Based on what we learned from _____, I think _____ is/isn't a viable solution to _____. [6]

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to the competency skill level(s) that align with the prompt.