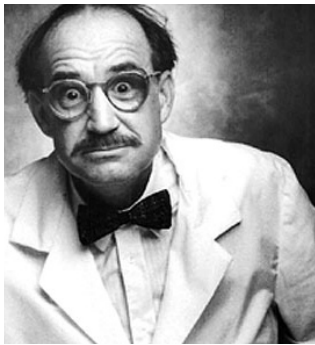


## BREAKING NEWS!!!

### Science suggests hamster-like living for middle school kids.



**Stan Furbottom,  
Stanford, CA**

Scientists announced today that middle school kids only need food, water, and oxygen to live. This discovery greatly advances scientific knowledge of this simple life-form. It is likely that kid's rooms all over the country will be redesigned with these minimum requirements in mind.

*"We had no idea that middle school students were such simple life forms."*

*-Professor Mervin Rosenblatt*

This startling report suggests that parents have vastly overestimated the needs of children all along. With this information, families are ready to drastically scale back the kinds of "frills" that have traditionally adorned the bedrooms of middle school kids.

"We always thought that middle school students were very simple creatures. But we had NO idea that they were this simple. They have the same basic needs as hamsters, I mean they can live indefinitely if you place some food pellets and a bowl of water on the floor of their rooms!" said professor Mervin

Rosenblatt, the leader of the research institute that conducted the study.

In the wake of this report, it is expected that parents will call for drastic changes to children's rooms across the country. Materials



*Hamster cages are luxurious compared to the minimum environment needed to raise middle school kids.*

such as books, computers, and stereos will be the first to go. It also speculated that exercise wheels will become a popular accessory. There is even some talk of putting sawdust or shredded newspaper on the floor and doing away with bathrooms altogether. The Girl Scouts of America have already begun protesting the report.

#### **You Decide:**

Is Professor Rosenblatt correct?!? Your leader will now divide your group into pairs- each group will work together to brainstorm and write down all the things a middle school girl needs in her room on the next page. The more items you have, the better case you have against Professor Rosenblatt.



# What's in her room?

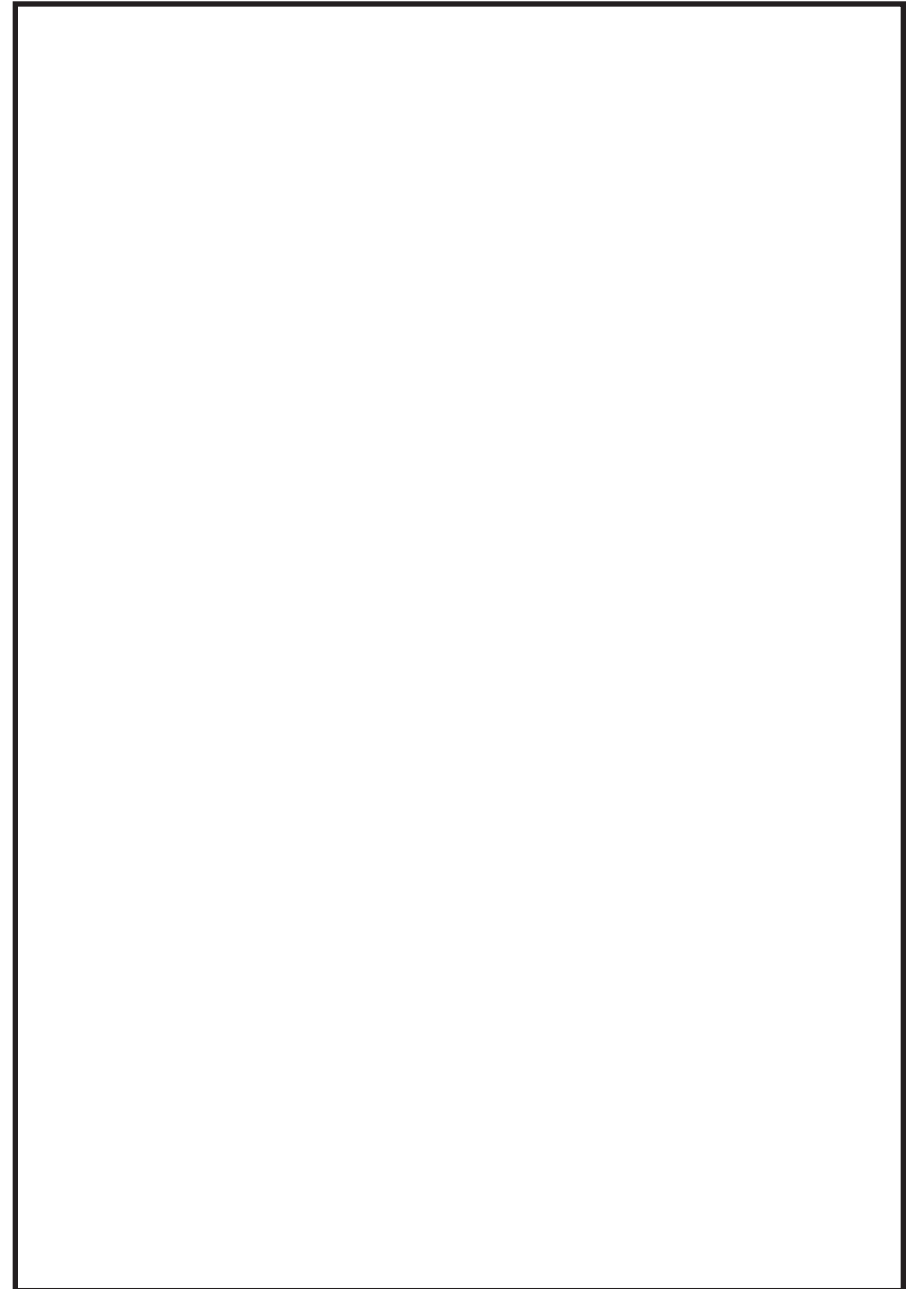
Build the case against Professor Rosenblatt. Brainstorm with your group to list as many items as possible. Think about what you have in your own room, but also what other girls your age might need!

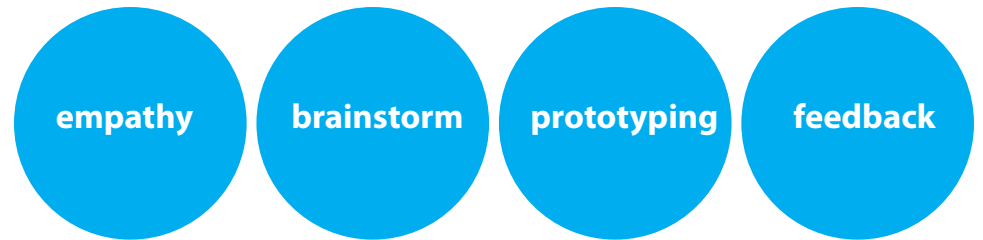
List as many items as you can below. Remember, the more you have, the better your case against Rosenblatt! See how many items you can come up with!

## Things in a middle schoolers room

Bed  
Light  
Water  
Oxygen  
...

Evidence Exhibit A: A "real" middle school girls room. Draw a more realistic bedroom to use in the case against Dr. Rosenblatt!





# THE DESIGN PROCESS

Here's a cheat sheet to understand the elements of our design process:

**Empathy** - Deeply understanding who or what we are designing for.

**Brainstorming** - Generating as many ideas as possible without judgment.


**Prototyping** - Building an idea so that it can be tested.

**Feedback**- Sharing your prototype with others to learn how it could it be improved.

## PART 1: Meet Your Hamster

The first part of the design process is to learn more about who you are designing for. Today you are going to design a habitat for a hamster. Each hamster has a unique story.

Choose a hamster profile card from the profile deck. Use your imagination to fill in the blanks and answer the questions on the card. There are no wrong answers- be creative!



Store your  
profile card  
here.

## PART 2: If I were a hamster, I would want...

Taking inspiration from your hamster's profile card, write or draw at least 30 different things your hamster needs in her room.

stay focused on the topic | build on the ideas of others

defer judgement | one conversation at a time | be visual

encourage wild ideas | go for quantity

PART 2: If I were a hamster,  
I would want...

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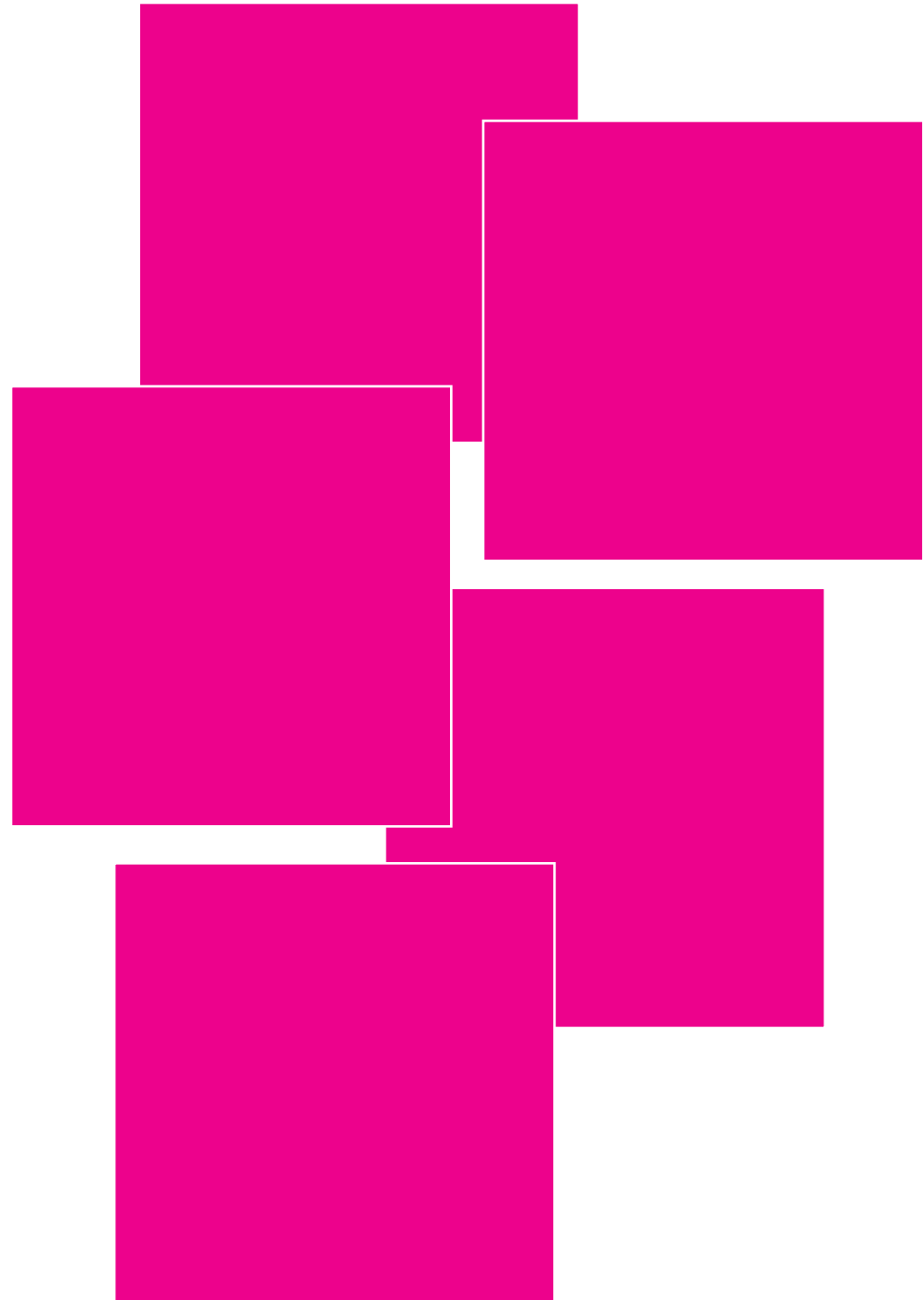


## PART 3: PROTOTYPE

**Collaborate:** Select 5 to 7 of the most important things your hamster needs that you listed in your notebook. Write each idea on a Post-It on the facing page. →

When you are finished, stick your Post-Its down on the following page to create a proposed floorplan of your hamster habitat.

Share this prototype with your neighbor. Take turns talking to each other about how you could each improve your designs. Recommend at least two possible changes to your neighbor.



# Hamster Habitat Floorplan

Title	<u>Top View</u>	Drawn by:
(Name your house)		Reviewed by:

After you have shared your design with your neighbor and received at least 2 suggestions for improvement, decide on your final design. (Note: you don't have to make all the changes your partner suggests, but they might be good ideas!)

Once you have shared and decided on a final design, have your neighbor sign your floorplan like a real architect!

# Be the hamster!

## CREATE A HAMSTER MASK

Great job designing your hamster's bedroom! Now it's time to become your hamster. Create a mask that you can wear to help communicate your hamster personality. Next time, you will be using the mask to perform a skit demonstrating your hamster's life!

Great Job!  
Stop here for today.



## Perform!

Form a group of 3 to 4 girls. You will be helping each other perform a skit using the masks you made last week. First, individually list at least 5 things your hamster includes in her morning routine or her bedtime routine.

*wake up*  
*brush teeth*

....

When you have finished your list, work with your group to create a 2-3 minute skit for each of your hamsters that demonstrates her routine based on the list above. When it is your other group member's turn to perform, you can help by being the narrator, physical objects, other hamsters, etc.

**Perform your amazing skit for your fellow girl scouts(hamsters) using your hamster mask!**

## Build It!

Return to your hamster habitat floorplan and review it. Make any last minute changes that you feel might be necessary at this time.

Using the materials provided, build a 3-D model based on your floorplan. Think about your hamster's needs as you create your amazing habitat for her!

Additional sketches/notes:

## Share!

Present your amazing model to others. Thank your fellow Girl Scouts and leaders for all their help!