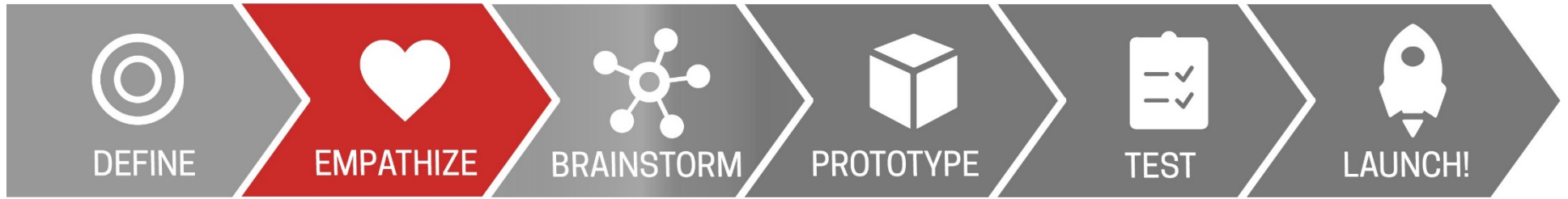


# **2018 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DESIGN COMPETITION**

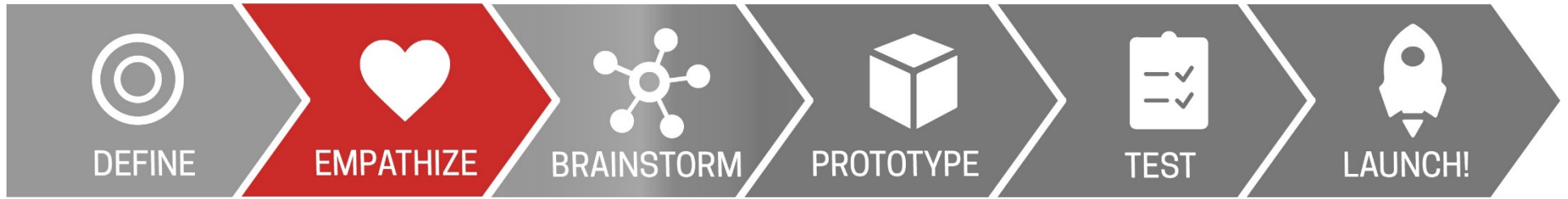
**TEACHER RESOURCES  
EMPATHY**

**COOPER  
HEWITT**



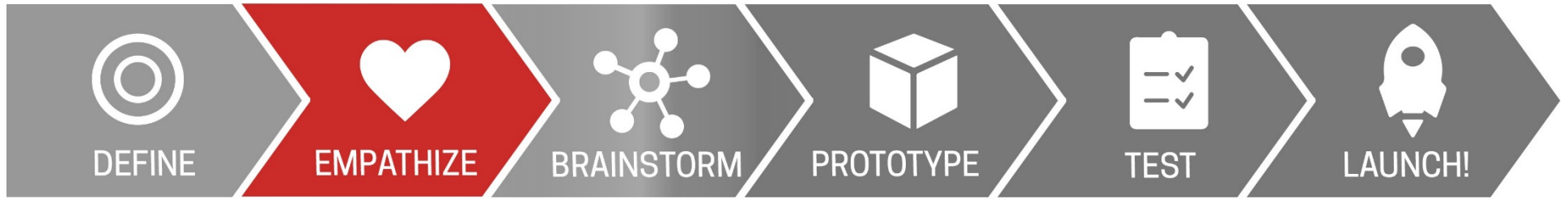
Empathy is the centerpiece of the design process.

It is important for the designer to understand the way a user does things and why, their physical and emotional needs, how they think about the world, and what is meaningful to them.



## ACTIVITY 1

Say the **colors (not the words)** on the next slide out loud together as a class. Start at the first color on the slide and proceed across each line. Keep a steady pace even if some people make mistakes.



**BLACK**

**RED**

**GREEN**

**ORANGE**

**YELLOW**

**BLUE**

**PURPLE**

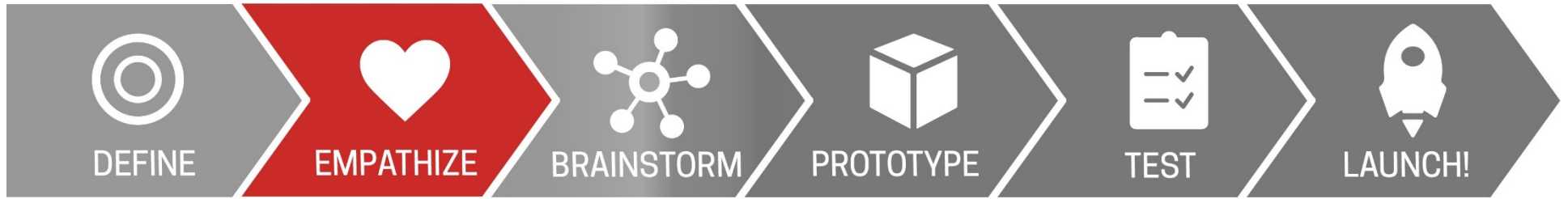
**BLACK**

**ORANGE**

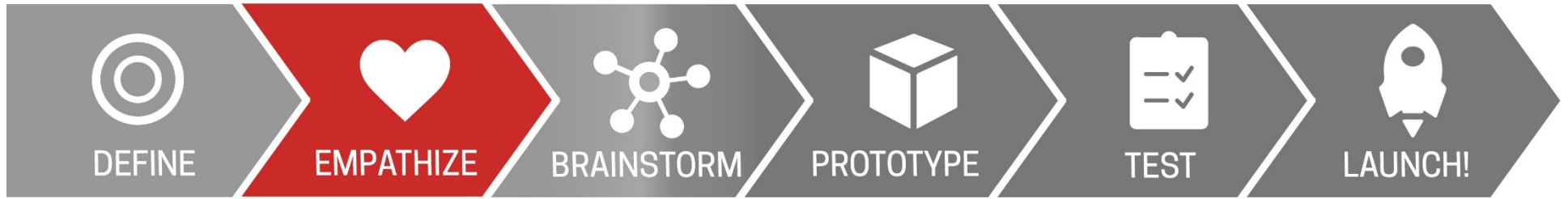
**YELLOW**

**BLUE**

**RED**



1. What happened when you called out the names of the colors?
2. Why do you think this happened?
3. How did this make you feel?

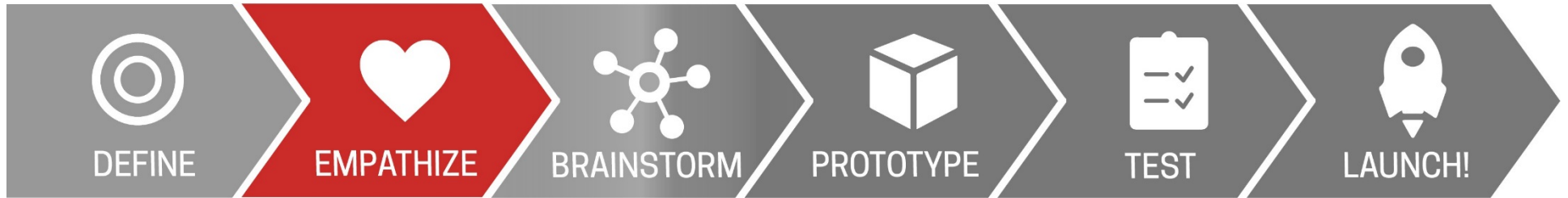


- In this activity, your brain wants to say the word written instead of the color you see.
- You have to go slower to say the color name instead of the word.
- This is one example of how difficult it can be for students with cognitive disabilities to get through the day. Sometimes their brains understand what needs to be done, but they struggle to make it come out right.



There are many types of cognitive disabilities. For example, a person with a cognitive disability may:

- Have difficulty understanding what other people say or mean.
- Have difficulty concentrating.
- Act younger than their age.
- Have difficulty learning to read or write.
- Be sensitive to external stimuli, such as light and sound.



## ACTIVITY 2

Each group needs: Winter gloves, disposable plastic gloves, potatoes, basic peeler (NOT an OXO Good Grips Peeler or similar product)

Instructions:

1. Place the winter gloves on first, followed by the plastic disposable gloves.
2. Wet your gloved hands.
3. Try to peel the potato, making sure everyone in each group has a turn.





1. What happened when you peeled the potato?
2. Why do you think this happened?
3. How did this make you feel?



- Farber was inspired to redesign the peeler because of his wife Betsy's challenges when cooking and preparing food with conventional utensils as they caused arthritis pain.
- There are a number of physical disabilities that cause limited hand strength and dexterity.



There are many types of physical disabilities. For example, a person with a physical disability may have limitations as a result of their:

- Physicality
- Mobility
- Stamina
- Senses

People can be born with a physical disability, it can develop through a person's life, or it can be the result of an accident.



## ACTIVITY 3

Each pair needs two members and a **good** blind fold.

Instructions:

1. One member is the guide and the other wears the blindfold.
2. Have the students wait in the hall while the classroom is slightly rearranged.
3. The guide needs to help the person with the blindfold to a chair without running into anything.



1. What happened when you were led by the guide?
2. Why do you think this happened?
3. How did this make you feel?



- For most individuals, sight is an important way they interpret the world.
- People who are blind or have low-vision experience the world in different ways, often relying more on other senses such as hearing, touch, or smell.