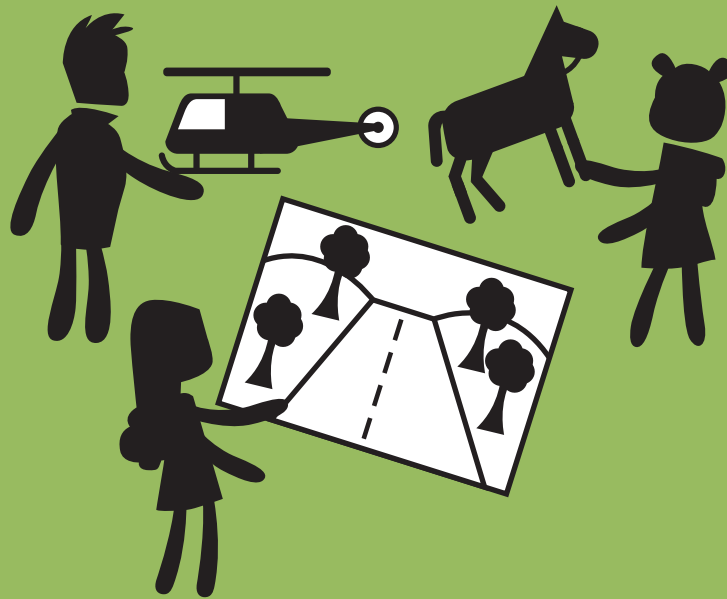


## RESEARCH METHOD: 19. PERSONAL STORIES



### 19. PERSONAL STORIES

*Most people have some personal insights and experiences that relate to the work or project in question, and this method can expand individual perspectives in any school subject. Stories or objects from home or from close family members can be brought to school and become a personal starting point for example for a history lesson.*

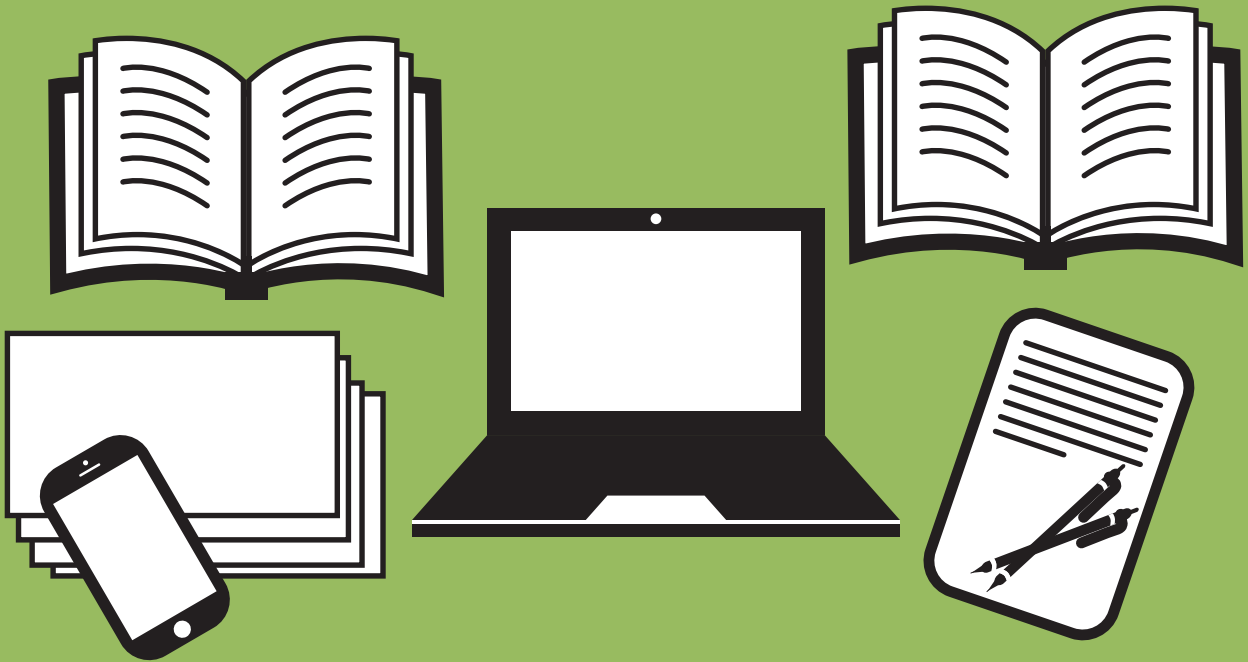
**Materials needed:** Doing some homework identifying stories or objects related to the challenge.

**Time required:** Some hours during the weekend or school week to collect the object and become familiar with the stories, and 45 minutes in class for everyone to present.

### How?

- 1)** Every member of the groups is asked to think about the challenge at hand, to find and collect stories or objects that are relevant and bring them to school at a set date and time.
- 2)** Plan a sharing session where everybody has the same amount of time allotted to share their stories.
- 3)** The other group members take turns asking questions and note down answers.
- 4)** Are there any common themes or threads of thought that seem interesting? Write them down and be sure to take good pictures of the objects or write down the stories being told to bring them with you forward in the upcoming project or assignment.

## RESEARCH METHOD: 20. DESKTOP RESEARCH



### 20. DESKTOP RESEARCH

*The world is bursting with knowledge, information and inspiration, and most of it is readily available in libraries and on the Internet. Doing desktop research is a way of accessing lots of knowledge very quickly to better understand a challenge at the start of a project.*

**Materials needed:** A computer, a desk, maybe a qualified librarian! A shared poster wall or digital blog area that everyone in the group can access and see.

**Time required:** 30–45 minutes. Can also be done as homework.

#### How?

**1)** You might want to start by using The 'To Do' List (method no. 9) to realise what you need to research.

**2)** Brainstorm and decide what kinds of material you want to look for and where to find them. You must aim for diversity and quantity: articles in the news media, TV, research articles, reports and other earlier assignments, websites, blogs and books.

**3)** Find a way of sharing the material with members of the group.

**What's next:** Do some Clustering (method no. 25) to organise and analyse the material and acquire insights into where you need to dig deeper or where the interesting questions or challenges lie.

## ANALYSIS METHOD: 28. DAY CYCLE



### 28. DAY CYCLE

*The Day Cycle is quite simply a way of looking at for example a phenomenon, a person's activities or what is happening at a specific site during a day and then mapping those occurrences visually. This approach often uncovers challenges or patterns that might be interesting and relevant for your work or the challenge you are interested in.*

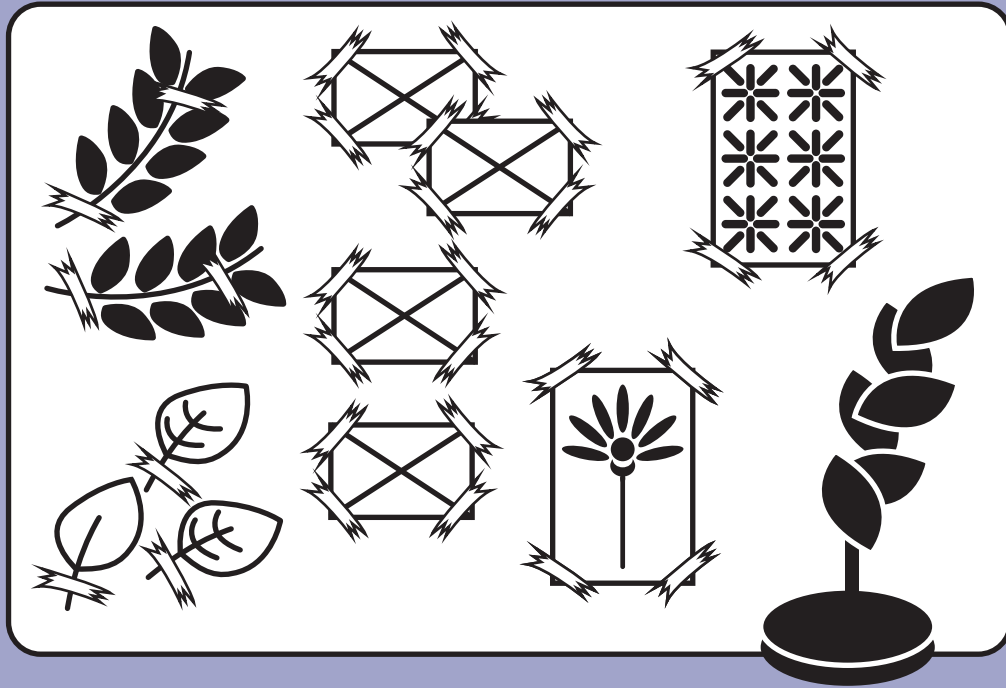
**Materials needed:** Board and tape/pins, pens or computer software that allows you to assemble, show photos and draw diagrams.

**Time required:** 45 minutes–1.5 hours.

### How?

- 1)** Take the information or data you have gathered – photos, statements and objects and organise it according to a timeline of 24 hours or a day cycle.
- 2)** Ask yourself: Where are the persons, the objects, or what is the situation at specific moments of the day or night? Who are they with? What are their thoughts and needs? What kinds of objects are they using? What is happening?
- 3)** Look at the 24-hour timeline and information posted and discuss what you can see: are there any moments of the day where there are some interesting issues, actions or things happening? Is there a pattern or a challenge that becomes apparent?

## IDEATION METHOD: 32. INSPIRATION



### 32. INSPIRATION

*No man (or woman) is an island – we are all influenced, intrigued and inspired by what others have done before or by things we can find in nature or in the man-made world. Inspiration can come from observing how an egg shell protects the yolk, how other people have solved issues, but you can also be inspired emotionally or aesthetically by looking at vintage posters or autumn leaves. Avoid imitation, do not steal other people's solutions but transform inspiration into new ideas!*

**Materials needed:** Camera, smartphone or notebook or paper and pens.

**Time required:** 45 minutes–1.5 hours.

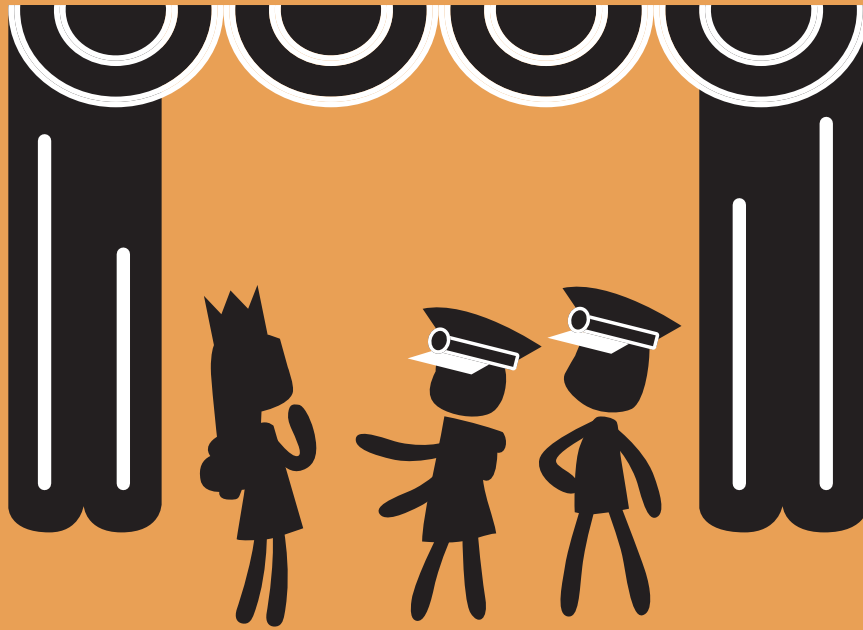
#### How?

**1)** Start by brainstorming about what kinds of inspiration you would like: specific functions and solutions in objects, beautiful details, colours or pictures or old photos.

**2)** Go out and collect items or/and take pictures that you organise on the computer or print out and assemble a large collage of the items you have clustered. You can also collect physical objects and items and cluster them or make an exhibition of them.

**3)** Evaluate and analyse what you have gathered and try to transform the inspirational material into new ideas. **Avoid imitation by transforming the material!** For example, if you are looking for aesthetic inspiration, transform some autumn leaves first into two-dimensional patterns, collages with newspaper or small sculptures so that you “extract” the essential properties from the inspirational material and use it in a new, innovative or beautiful way in your own project.

## CREATION METHOD: 42. ROLE PLAY



### 42. ROLE PLAY

*Role play has always been a way of experiencing what it would be like to be a horse, a prince or a wizard. This method uses role play and acting to try to experience something and develop ideas and solutions in relation to a challenge or a project.*

**Materials needed:** Paper, pens, costumes, settings, props (or not!).

**Time required:** 1 hour to 1 day.

#### How?

**1)** Start by discussing the following: what do you want to learn and develop through acting it out? What kind of situation or scene would be interesting to act out? What do you need to do it and get in the mood? Do you need props and costumes? Do you want to create a storyboard to act from or will it be improv theatre where the different characters are clearly defined but you will develop the dialogue and actions on the fly?

**2)** As role play and acting is something many people find a bit difficult it is important to have fun while still being serious enough to actually act and commit properly to the exercise!

**3)** Follow the story board or the characters you have chosen as faithfully as possible and be respectful towards one another. Make the others relax and try to follow their ideas and experiments if you are improvising.

**4)** Act out different scenes, situations and roles.

**5)** Step back and evaluate what happened. What possibilities and situations arose from the role play or acting that seemed interesting? Did you become aware of new things you had not thought of before? Explain!