**October Learning Challenge:**

**Design Thinking: Upcycle Your Life!**

The **design thinking process** is a 5-step process used by entrepreneurs around the world to develop creative *solutions* to a *problem*! Companies and students may use the design thinking process to creatively tackle challenges and to create a better world through entrepreneurship. For your **October Learning Challenge**, we challenge you to reflect on the problem of household garbage, and apply the design thinking process to find a creative way to upcycle waste.

**The Problem**



Many cities in Canada have experienced a spike in household waste over the past year.[[1]](#footnote-0) With everyone staying at home due to Covid-19, household waste such as boxes, packaging materials, and kitchen scraps, have drastically increased. Garbage collected from homes increased by as much as **35% per month** compared to the year before! The overproduction of garbage is harmful to our earth, our health, and our safety.[[2]](#footnote-1)

**Your Challenge**

There are many steps that YOU can take to reduce your waste. One way is through *upcycling.* **Upcycling** involves creatively transforming garbage or waste into new items that can be used. Out of the items that you may find in a recycling or garbage bin, work to find a solution to upgrade your waste!

**Looking for inspiration?** Take this example: a team of high school students in Vancouver, BC, also wanted to tackle this problem. So, in order to reduce the waste of old clothes sitting in their closet, students turned their clothing scraps into scrunchies, and sold them as a business. They named their upcycling business “**Better Bands**.” Cool, right?

**Your Project Instructions**

Create a copy of this [**project template**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SITdtkfyJG7Ok-1B4q3Ve_gagYEs2m7dHzvlbMmznXI/edit?usp=sharing) and add it to your Google Drive. Following the steps outlined in the template, apply the **Design Thinking Process** to develop your idea to upcycle household waste. Then, write a short, persuasive paragraph (4-5 sentences) explaining why your solution is awesome and why people should buy it!



To help you get started, here are some ideas of waste products that you could upcycle…

* Old plastic water bottles
* Yogurt tubs
* Cardboard boxes
* Milk bags/jugs

**Learning Challenge Submission**

Once you have completed your project, please submit the file to your teacher with the following file naming convention: “Your Name\_Teacher’s Name\_October LC” Then, fill out this [**Microsoft Form**](https://forms.office.com/r/s3gN7v8qrf) to ensure you have submitted and to provide your feedback. **Please ensure that your Google Slides is set to *“anyone with this link can view.”***

Your Learning Challenge will be evaluated based on **creativity, critical thinking, detail, and presentation.** Our Enspire Program team will review all of your submissions, and announce the **Learning Challenge Prize Winners** within a few weeks!

1. Information Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/costofliving/household-waste-boom-covid-1.5728420> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Information Source: <https://www.latimes.com/world/global-development/la-fg-global-trash-20160422-20160421-snap-htmlstory.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)