ENGR 131 Design Project Mobility Challenge: Improve Safety of People Moving Around Campus

Beginning Versus Informed Designers

	Beginning Designers	Informed Designers
Understand the challenge	Treat design task as a well-defined, straightforward problem that they prematurely attempt to solve .	Delay making design decisions in order to explore, comprehend, and frame the problem better.
Build knowledge	Skip research and pose or build solutions immediately.	Do research on the problem and test solutions.
Generate ideas	Work with few or just one ideas, which they can get fixated or stuck on, and may not want to change or discard.	Practice idea fluency in order to work with lots of ideas by doing divergent thinking, brainstorming, etc.
Represent ideas	Propose superficial ideas that do not support deep inquiry of a system and that would not work if built.	Use multiple representations (words, sketches, and prototypes) to explore and investigate design ideas.
Weight options & make decisions	Make design decisions without weighing all options.	Use words and graphics to display and weigh both benefits and tradeoffs of all ideas before picking a design.
Conduct experiments	Do few or no tests on prototypes, or run confounded tests by changing multiple variables in a single experiment.	Conduct valid experiments.
Troubleshoot	Use an unfocused, non-analytical way to view prototypes during testing and troubleshooting of ideas.	Focus attention on problematic areas and subsystems when troubleshooting and proposing ways to fix them.
Revise/iterate	Design in haphazard ways where little learning gets done, or do design steps once in linear order.	Do design in a managed way, where ideas are improved iteratively via feedback, and strategies are used multiple times as needed.
Reflect on process	Do tacit designing with little self-monitoring while working or reflecting on the process and product when done.	Practice reflective thinking by keeping tabs on design strategies and thinking while working and after finished.

Reference:

Crismond, D., & Adams, R. (2012). The informed design teaching and learning matrix. Journal of Engineering Education, 101(4), 738-797