

Finding Affordances

This is an individual homework meant to make you pay attention to your outside world...many of you have already commented on products and such you have noticed 😊

Find some examples of user-created artifacts or products among the devices, systems, machines, equipment, signage, etc. you encounter in life. You are looking for things users have added to help them use the item and which send messages to the designers about features that could/should have been part of the original design. Examples could be existing products being used for unintended purposes or products that have been tweaked by the user to help perform a task (intended or unintended). These can serve as either cognitive or physical affordances that help users use the item.

You will have a few weeks for this assignment. Find at least **three** affordances. Include photos if possible. For each one, briefly describe it answering the following questions:

1. What is the product, system, device, etc.?
2. What is its intended usage?
3. How did the user actually use it? What specific features make the item afford the alternative use?
4. What does this affordance say about the audience?
5. Did the affordance support or limit the inclusivity of the design?

Make sure to start this assignment early since the goal is to find the affordances during your daily life. They can be something you do or something you see someone else do.

Submission

Please submit each affordance as you find it to the discussion thread I created on Canvas. I expect you to read the affordances other students find. This means if someone posts an affordance, then no one else can write about it to count for this assignment. However, feel free to comment on the affordances to get a conversation going about what you see in the world!