

# Assignment 3

## 1: Writing your problem definition

### Who has the problem?

People like Dr Qing:  
living in the transforming era between  
a slow-fashion and fast-paced society.  
They still keep the routine life styles like  
praying and worshipping gods. But they also  
enjoy the real material world, try to  
achieve mental joys such as relax & deep  
while or so-called "Flow" from the ritual

### What is the problem?

#### ① Fire & Safety

fire happens to occur in most of religion activities  
they are the metaphor of cleaning power, and the  
smoke created by it which is seen as the  
medium to communicate with superior power.

② The ash, seen as clean and purity are not  
allowed to thrown in the normal ways. Most  
believers will collect & keep them. In the ancient  
time they are used to heal wounds by stopping  
bleeding

③ But both fire, and ash is

become safety threats in modern  
society especially  
when no person is  
looking after

### What are relevant context factors?

Culture: when worshipping Buddha and ancestors  
at least 3 incenses will be served.

Pets: pets, especially cat, are very curious,  
and they often break items and push items off

Time limits:

incences and last lit for more than  
an hours, by the time it stops burning,  
the house already left the house

### What side effects need to be avoided?

① The design need to keep the factors  
such fire, ash, the smell of the smoke  
so a design that will remove those elements  
shall be avoided.

② Avoid designing products similar to  
incense stand



### Which actions are admissible? What are the constraints that you need to work within?

① No electronics

② Must be clever so it would be seen as  
an insult to their belief.

③ Must be clean, modern

④ Can take some elements from Ubi-Sabi  
Style

## 2: Formulating a design challenge

“ I want

Doctor Qing  
(target users)

to

worship buddha and enjoy the mental morning life

(effect you want to accomplish) safety / without worry

because

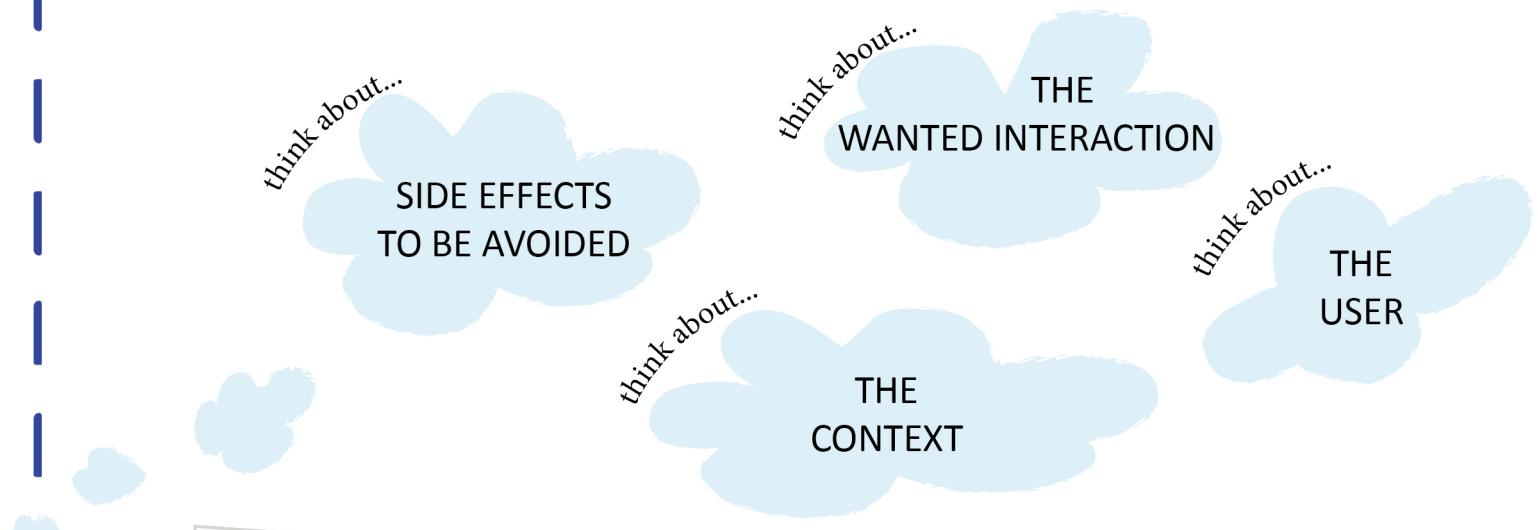
(reason(s) why this effect is relevant for your user in this context)

... She has family and patients to take care,

and pets to look after.

”

# **3: Writing a preliminary list of requirements**



## Preliminary requirements

- user can smell the burning incense
  - user can see the smoke floating in the air
  - user can control the amount of the smoke in the air
  - user can make sure ~~the~~ it will still be safe after she ~~has~~ leaves the house
  - the pets won't touch it