

Goal • Plan the development of a technological innovation to solve a problem.

Introduction

Scientists seek to explain events or objects through changes they observe in controlled experiments or correlational studies. Technologists seek to make changes to events or objects through innovation—the development of new products and techniques.

What to Do

Work in small groups or by yourself, as directed by your teacher. Use the outline below to help you plan the development of a product or technique for one of the following:

- a strong case for storing compact discs that can be opened easily by people who have difficulty moving, especially their hands or fingers;
- a way to reduce the growth of fungi, such as mushrooms, in lawns and parks; or
- a simple, inexpensive power source for a kids' camp in a remote location.

Outline

1. Do either part a. or part b.

a. Outline a hypothesis for the changes needed to produce a suitable technology.

As/If _____,

then _____,

because the technology will _____.

b. Predict the changes needed to produce a suitable technology.

As/If _____,

then _____.

2. On the back of this sheet, sketch or describe your idea for a model or prototype. Include a list of suggested materials.

3. Identify a variable to be changed or improved. Explain how you will do it.

