common sense media

Workbook: Creativity with Apple Intelligence

Throughout this workbook, you'll explore hands-on scenarios inspired by the Stanford d.school Design Thinking Framework. You'll work through real classroom examples to see how the use of Apple Intelligence tools can support different phases of your creative work in education.

The Framework: A Design Thinking Process

The Design Thinking approach keeps the focus on human experience. In education, that means keeping students and learning at the center. The process moves through five stages:

- **Empathize:** Set aside assumptions to gain deep insight into student stories and emotions.
- **Define:** Synthesize your findings into a clear point of view or problem statement.
- **Ideate:** Explore a wide variety of possible solutions.
- **Prototype:** Transform abstract ideas into physical or digital artifacts.
- **Test:** Gather feedback to refine your solutions and uncover new insights.

You'll explore five real classroom scenarios — one for each design thinking phase. For each scenario, you'll explore paths that integrate traditional methods (pen and paper, observation, collaboration), traditional technology tools that support collaboration, and newer Apple Intelligence tools. Each scenario is broken down into four key components:

1. **The Scenario:** Meet a teacher and explore a specific challenge they're facing.
2. **The Brainstorm:** This is your time to "sandbox." Before looking at solutions, how would you approach this problem as a designer? How would you, as the teacher, approach each phase of the design thinking process?
3. **Potential Next Steps:** Explore three distinct paths (A, B, and C) that range from traditional methods and standard collaboration tools to Apple Intelligence integrations.
4. **The Reflection:** A space for critical thinking. You'll weigh the yellow and green flags of each path, reflecting on which approach best honors the "human heart" of teaching.

Using the Workbook

Please note, there's no single right answer. Your judgment and expertise as an educator are essential. The best path forward depends on your specific context, goals, and students.

Creativity and collaboration often go hand in hand. Consider different options for engagement with this workbook.

Solo: Work through scenarios as thought experiments.

With colleagues: Discuss trade-offs with your team.

With students: Share adapted versions to explore creativity and AI.

Return later: Revisit after trying Apple Intelligence in your own work.

common sense media

Step 1: Empathize

The **empathize** phase is the heartbeat of the d.school Framework and calls you to shift focus from *what* you teach to *who* you teach. This creative step goes beyond data and is done by deeply immersing yourself in your students' lived experiences. As an observer in this phase, use your unique relationship with your students to decide how perspectives will shape your design.

Scenario: Teacher X is a media arts teacher for a high school. Their students are working on an ethnography project in which they'll produce a documentary featuring their families' stories.

Brainstorm: *What next steps could you take to further understand the experiences of the students for this project?*

Consider three potential next steps Teacher X could take and reflect on their impact below.

A:	**B:**	**C:**
Teacher X records notes from the interviews using pen and paper.	Teacher X uses a generative AI chatbot to simulate a conversation about an immigration story. They assign the chatbot the role of a 10th-grade student whose family comes from Guatemala.	Teacher X uses **Audio Recording, Transcription & Summaries** in her **Notes app** to record student interviews and observations.

Reflect:

- Which pathway best supports your unique voice, vision, and context?
- Which pathway would you choose, and why?
- Does that approach amplify your professional judgment or replace it?
- What human capacities (connection, creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity) are preserved or lost?
- Does this pathway create space for the work that matters most, or does it shortcut important thinking?

common sense media

Step 2: Define

The **define** phase is where you transition from gathering information to making sense of it — sometimes this can feel like a messy middle. Your creative work involves synthesizing information like stories, emotions, or data into a clear problem statement that will guide the rest of the design process.

Scenario: Teacher X, a first-grade teacher, reviews their weekly notes from their small-group literacy lessons to plan for the week ahead. Like most educators, they find that taking notes in real time often results in unorganized thoughts that can be difficult to track.

Brainstorm: *What next steps could you take to further understand the experiences of the students for this project?*

Consider three potential next steps Teacher X could take and reflect on their impact below.

A:	**B:**	**C:**
Teacher X processes their notes manually to create a plan for which lessons they need to revisit or introduce.	Teacher X takes a picture of their notes and uploads it to a generative AI chatbot with a prompt to create a teaching plan for the next week.	Teacher X uses **Writing Tools** like **Synthesize** or **Key Points** to distill trends and action steps.

Reflect:

- Which pathway best supports your unique voice, vision, and context?
- Which pathway would you choose, and why?
- Does that approach amplify your professional judgment or replace it?
- What human capacities (connection, creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity) are preserved or lost?
- Does this pathway create space for the work that matters most, or does it shortcut important thinking?

common sense media

Step 3: Ideate

The **ideate** phase is a space for limitless possibilities. It's a judgment-free zone. This phase calls you to generate a high volume of potential solutions, going beyond the obvious. Your creative work here is to "go wide," exploring every possible angle to ensure that you aren't just settling for the first idea that comes to mind.

Scenario: Overall attendance rates at an elementary school were dropping to a concerning low. Teacher X decided to incentivize attendance by giving a weekly prize to a randomly selected student who is in attendance — calling it Mystery Monday.

Brainstorm: *What next steps could you take to further understand the experiences of the students for this project?*

Consider three potential next steps Teacher X could take and reflect on their impact below.

A:	**B:**	**C:**
Teacher X conducts a student survey to see what would motivate them to increase their attendance.	Teacher X collaborates with their grade-level team in their weekly meeting to workshop ideas.	Teacher X brings their brainstorming ideas to life with **Image Playground** — quickly generating custom images.

Reflect:

- Which pathway best supports your unique voice, vision, and context?
- Which pathway would you choose, and why?
- Does that approach amplify your professional judgment or replace it?
- What human capacities (connection, creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity) are preserved or lost?
- Does this pathway create space for the work that matters most, or does it shortcut important thinking?

common sense media

Step 4: Prototype

In the **prototype** phase, you turn to your selected abstract idea and bring it to life. It doesn't have to look perfect — in fact, it probably won't — but it's for you and your students to engage, process, and learn with. While you prototype, you can adapt or revise what you see fit to best meet the needs of your students.

Scenario: A special education teacher wants to create a short social story for one of their students to help them focus on coping skills during some transitions during the school day. They want to include the student's favorite animal and snacks to help the story feel more personal.

Brainstorm: *What next steps could you take to further understand the experiences of the student for this project?*

Consider three potential next steps Teacher X could take and reflect on their impact below.

A:	**B:**	**C:**
Write out the story on paper and draw illustrations for each page.	After using a generative AI teaching assistant tool to write out the story, they search the web for photos of the student's favorite animal and add them to the pages.	Use **Image Wand** in **Notes** to turn a quick sketch of the animal and the snacks into a vibrant visual aid.

Reflect:

- Which pathway best supports your unique voice, vision, and context?
- Which pathway would you choose, and why?
- Does that approach amplify your professional judgment or replace it?
- What human capacities (connection, creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity) are preserved or lost?
- Does this pathway create space for the work that matters most, or does it shortcut important thinking?

common sense media

Step 5: Test

The **test** phase is where you determine if your prototype meets the reality of your classroom. It's about refined understanding, not right or wrong. Your role is focused solely on the student experience, critiques, and observations. From there, you'll determine whether to persist or pivot.

Scenario: Teacher X, a seventh-grade algebra teacher, just finished a unit on number operations. As they're grading the unit assessments, they reflect on what went well throughout the unit, items to tweak, and what to change or keep for the following year.

Brainstorm: *What next steps could you take to further understand the experiences of the students for this project?*

Explore three potential next steps Teacher X could take and reflect on their impact below.

A:	**B:**	**C:**
Create an exit ticket to allow students to give feedback on what went well and what they would change about the unit.	Connect with their grade-level team to hear similarities and differences when they teach the unit.	Use **Math Notes** to create math problems and graphs that help reinforce concepts for their students.

Reflect:

- Which pathway best supports your unique voice, vision, and context?
- Which pathway would you choose, and why?
- Does that approach amplify your professional judgment or replace it?
- What human capacities (connection, creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity) are preserved or lost?
- Does this pathway create space for the work that matters most, or does it shortcut important thinking?

common sense media

Reflections

Reflect on the scenarios and pathways you explored in this workbook. Which pathways did you find yourself gravitating toward, and why?

Were there any pathways you noticed that allowed teachers to keep their **voice, vision,** and **context** at the forefront of the creative work?

Moving Forward

As you continue to harness your creativity in education, keep these key considerations in mind to ensure that your integration of technology amplifies your creative work without outsourcing your professional judgment:

- Do I have a clear vision for what I want to create, and why?
- Will I meaningfully revise the output to match my context?
- Am I using this to amplify my capabilities or replace my thinking?
- Will this create space for more important creative work?
- How does this integration deepen student engagement and understanding?