

The Design Process

I recommend taking a look at [Intel's Design and Discovery Curriculum](#). Parts, if not all, of this would complement the work an FLL team does. At over 300 pages, this curriculum is more than you have time to do during an FLL season! This would be best carried out during the off season, like during a summer camp. However, select parts could be incorporated during the FLL season, perhaps during the weeks between getting the field set up kit and the release of the Challenge.

Our team recently did the following parts of Intel's curriculum.

Session 1A Build a Better Paperclip

Given tools and wire, kids are “challenged to design a new paperclip that meets predetermined requirements”. Kids are given a notebook to be their design journal and record their thoughts and ideas during this activity.

Session 1B The Design Process

This is basically a discussion of the design process, as described on a handout. During the discussion this process is related to their experience in designing a new paperclip.

Also included is a reading assignment which compares scientists and engineers, and provides information about engineering.

The design process handout closely follows the process for the FLL project.

Another great resource is the [Design Squad](#) site. At this site you can watch episodes of this PBS program, get printable resources, activity ideas and more! This has lots of information and help for educators related to the design process.