

CODESIGN TOOL: (Re)Centering



At the core of successful codesign is the team's ability to establish and work towards a common goal and to be transparent about the resources available to them when making decisions – we frame this as “centering” the work around opportunities and assets. This tool has two purposes: to help the team initially establish these parameters for the project (centering the work) and then to help them stay on course or course-correct as needed (re-centering). This means that at each major decision point, the team should collectively reflect on the implications of their decisions.

Using this tool

The first time the team uses this tool is during **Stage 2: Focus and Scope**.

Afterward, the tool should be used after *each stage* to keep the team on track. Ideally, this tool would be discussed together at the end of a meeting to ensure the team is ready to move forward. It could also be used as a post-meeting assignment, with the facilitator collecting responses and reporting back to the team the results, which should help make decisions about moving forward or pausing to re-evaluate choices.

When you work through these questions, it is important that the team members are:

- Comfortable sharing concerns
- Transparent about time, resources, and commitments
- Willing to take a step back and revisit choices, even if that means more work



	<p>Initial Questions for Team (Stage 2)</p>	<p>Questions for Subsequent Stages</p>	<p>Decision at Subsequent Stages...</p>
 Needs	<p>Who is your audience and what are the needs of this audience that your work will meet?</p> <p>Refer to the team's sensemaking worksheet and the audience activity as a starting point.</p>	<p>Stage 3</p> <p>Does our decision(s) still address the need we identified?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have considered this <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any remaining concerns:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Revise our stated need <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>
		<p>Stage 5</p> <p>Does our decision(s) still address the need we identified?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have considered this <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any remaining concerns:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Revise our stated need <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>
		<p>Stage 7</p> <p>Does our decision(s) still address the need we identified?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have considered this <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any remaining concerns:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Revise our stated need <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>



		<p>Stage 8 Does our decision(s) still address the need we identified?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have considered this <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any remaining concerns:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Revise our stated need <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going				
 Goals	<p>What outcome do we hope to achieve through this work? Set a goal to achieve an outcome, such as increasing awareness or changing behavior. Consider the outcomes illustrated in the figure below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Types of Outcomes</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  Awareness An initial step toward engagement Discovery and understanding A new perspective </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  Knowledge and Skills Gains in knowledge required for well-informed decisions Gains in skills that are required for effective discourse </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  Behavior Change New actions, habits, or routines A measure of increased engagement </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  Systems Change Reformed policies or procedures New standards or models Empowered communities </td> </tr> </table> <p>Adapted from Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) (n.d.) What is water education? https://www.creatured.org/what-is-water-education.html</p> </div>	 Awareness An initial step toward engagement Discovery and understanding A new perspective	 Knowledge and Skills Gains in knowledge required for well-informed decisions Gains in skills that are required for effective discourse	 Behavior Change New actions, habits, or routines A measure of increased engagement	 Systems Change Reformed policies or procedures New standards or models Empowered communities	<p>Stage 3 Is our decision(s) still aligned to the goals we set?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have considered this <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any remaining concerns:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Revise our stated goals <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going
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<p>In what ways are we attending to and addressing equity and inclusion in this work?</p> <p>Consider equity and inclusion in terms of goals but also our own processes and decisions.</p>	<p>Stage 3</p> <p><i>Does our decision(s) continue to address equity in the way we intended?</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p><i>Have we considered additional equity implications of this work?</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p><i>Describe any remaining concerns:</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Add or revise equity implications for our work <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>
<p> Equity</p>	<p>Stage 5</p> <p><i>Does our decision(s) continue to address equity in the way we intended?</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p><i>Have we considered additional equity implications of this work?</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p><i>Describe any remaining concerns:</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Add or revise equity implications for our work <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>



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	<p>What will success look like? How will we know if our work has an impact?</p>	<p>Stage 3 <i>Does our plan for assessing impact still make sense?</i></p>	

Impact



	<p>Stage 5</p> <p>Does our plan for assessing impact still make sense?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>If not, what concerns do we have:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Revise our plan to assess impact <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>
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 Team	<p>What perspectives, experiences, and spheres of influence are represented on your team?</p> <p>Stage 3</p> <p>Does our plan leverage the expertise and influence of our team?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Are additional team members or partners needed to carry out these plans?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, we need additional team members.</p> <p>Describe any concerns:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and recruit new team members <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>
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 Time	<p>How much time can you spend on your solution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the timeline for the project and how flexible is that timeline? • How much time can team members spend outside of meetings on this work? <p>Stage 3</p> <p>Do our plans reflect time constraints of the team and team members?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any concerns:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Adjust timeline <input type="checkbox"/> Adjust effort/scope to reflect team members' time constraints and make note of what changed</p>



			<input type="checkbox"/> Keep going
<p> Cost</p>	<p>What is your budget? What other resources might be available?</p>	<p>Stage 3 Are our plans within the budget for this project?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any concerns:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Adjust budget <input type="checkbox"/> Find additional funding <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going</p>
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 Talent/Skill	<p>What talents and skills can your team apply to this challenge? List specific capabilities here (e.g. writing, graphic design, video editing, editing, anything that might be useful!)</p> <p>Stage 3</p> <p>Do our plans match our team's talents and skills?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we considered this. <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Are additional team members needed to carry out these plans?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe not</p> <p>Describe any concerns:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Go back a step to adjust our decision <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and recruit new team members <input type="checkbox"/> Keep going



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Stage 8

Do our plans match our team's talents and skills?

- Yes, we considered this.
- Maybe not

Are additional team members needed to carry out these plans?

- Yes _____
- Maybe not

Describe any concerns:

- Go back a step to adjust our decision
- Identify and recruit new team members
- Keep going