

Top Tips

Step 1 – Get Creative

Artists aren't the only people who are creative. Getting creative means:

- Coming up with new ideas
- Looking at things in new ways and creating new ideas
- Thinking outside the box
- Seeing what's not there and creating something new

Part of the creative process is deciding which ideas work best for a particular situation or problem.

Creativity starts with curiosity, so you could begin by walking around your home, school or community and think about the energy that is used and the waste that is made.

Step 2 - Solve a Problem

Many great inventors start by finding new ways to solve problems. Think about the lack of knowledge and understanding around saving energy or the challenges we have with recycling. For example, you could:

- Design something that makes it easier for recycling to be done in your school
- Come up with a way to raise awareness of all the ways energy is wasted and could be saved
- Invent new uses for waste products

Step 3 - Research and Refine

Your project needs to have as much research and testing of the concept as you can manage with the resources at your disposal. Look at your chosen area and investigate what others have been doing.

Be clear about who will use your product or who your idea is aimed at. These people are called your 'Target Audience'. Ask questions of your target audience and if possible, talk to professionals, teachers, parents, or anyone who may be able to offer you advice.

Don't be put off if you find that something similar to your idea already exists. Many of the world's greatest inventors rarely came up with pioneering inventions. What they most often did was take something that already exists and make it extraordinarily better. Have a think about ways that you could take an existing idea and turn it into something new and improved.

Step 4 - Create your Poster Board

Create posters that:

- Explain the idea behind what you are trying to achieve and how you would put it into action.
- Identify your 'Target Audience' (who will use your product or who are you trying to inspire to reduce energy or waste)
- Show the research you have carried out (include your research methods and your findings)
- Explain the potential positive impact of your idea (how will your idea help to reduce energy usage and waste production)

When displayed together, your posters should cover a space no larger than an A1 sheet: (84cm x 59cm approx.)

Top Tips for Creating your Posters:

- Be creative and bold. Use striking colours, fonts and images.
- Sometimes, less is more. Your posters should grab attention and be easy to read and understand. Think about your key headlines and group information into boxes or sections.
- Once you have your information, photos or drawings, think about how to break it up and put it back together so it reads easily to the viewer. Put pieces of information together like a puzzle. YOU decide how the viewer will read the poster and get the message.
- To make it interesting, try using a variety of materials, images and fonts.

Step 5 - Plan your Presentation

When you pitch your idea to your school's judging panel it would be useful to prepare a 3-minute presentation to explain your idea and the problem it will solve.

Top tips for your presentation:

- Start by introducing your team
- Explain the problem you are trying to solve
- Describe your idea; what it will do, who will use it and how it will work
- Tell the judges about the research you carried out and what you found out from this research
- Factor in time to do mock presentations and get feedback from classmates and teachers
- Practice speaking or let those who are comfortable speaking do the presenting
- Know your idea inside out so you can answer questions from the judges
- Be confident, be positive and have fun!