Try these, devise your own, or get students to generate them. Use limited, open-ended materials like bottle caps, time foil, yarn, or just paper and pencil. Take 5 minutes at the beginning of class, or use them for a longer term design and problem-solving experience. Follow-up with reflection on the kinds of thinking these challenges provoke.

Design a car for an octopus	Create something we would need if the entire country was suddenly underwater
Create a new, worldwide currency	Design a school bus for a school of fish
Create an outfit that can automatically adjust to all weather conditions	Create a superhero persona for a hamster
Create a skyscraper unlike any you have ever seen	Create the only pair of shoes you will need for the rest of your life
Create a totally new sport	Create the home of a cat who thinks she's a mermaid



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Imagine a way to take pictures without using your hands	Imagine a way we could have saved the dinosaurs
Imagine a way to record dreams	Imagine a way to swim in shark infested water safely without a cage
Imagine one technology everyone will have in the future, but no one has now	Devise your ultimate desk
Design a safe way to cook without electricity	Imagine a zoo on Mars
Create a brand new holiday with its own traditions, rituals, food, activities etc.	Create the world's most amazing playground



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Build a sculpture that represents an emotion	Devise a way to see the moon, no matter the time of day
Create a cell phone that never needs to be charged	Design a mechanism that returns all lost and found items to its owners
Imagine and depict what a real "opposite day" would be like	Create the logo for a company that makes beach wear for jellyfish
Create a totally new kind of rollercoaster	Create a sculpture to represent Earth to an audience of aliens
Design an apartment building that could house all the creatures of the Amazon	Design a vehicle that can be driven on the road, in the air and in the water



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Create an itinerary for a road trip across the universe	Imagine a way to keep ice frozen without electricity
Imagine a way to camouflage a city	Imagine a way to perfectly illustrate what someone is thinking
Devise a way to start a fire on the North Pole, without using wood	Create a brand new means of long-distance communication
Create a way to bring a painting to life	Imagine a way to predict the future
Create a way to reverse a bad haircut	Create everything you need for a brand-new country

