



Western New York INVENTION CONVENTION

Your Invention Process!

Identifying (Ways to Identify a problem)

SCAMPER is a tool that can help you identify a problem to work on. It can be used early in your Invention Process but it can also be used later- as a way to improve your idea, give it more features or make it more valuable to the people who will use it.

Use the questions and statements below as well as on the **SCAMPER** worksheet, in combination with the verbs within the circles and see where your creative thinking leads you!
(Add more blank pages as you need them)

Substitute

Combine

Adapt

Modify

Put it to
another
use

Eliminate

Rearrange

What if I _____?
How might I _____?
What would happen if I _____?
How might things change if _____?

SCAMPER

(COOL QUESTIONS FOR CREATIVE THINKING!)

It might be surprising when _____!
It would be interesting if I _____!
It might be more useful if I _____!
It would be funny if I _____!



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Name:

Date:

The **SCAMPER** tool is best used to improve and test an idea during the invention process. It helps you look at your ideas differently!

To learn how to **SCAMPER**, use a common object such as a paper bag, paper clip, comb, etc. Close your eyes and listen as someone reads each strategy aloud. Imagine in your "mind's eye" what changes might happen if you perform each strategy to it. Write down your new ideas.

What if I...	Now, it can.../Now, it will...
<p style="text-align: center;">Substitute</p> <p>What materials can you change or swap? What if someone else was involved? What are some other approaches?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Combine</p> <p>What other things/ideas can you combine? What features can you combine?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Adapt</p> <p>What else is like this? How else might it be used?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Modify</p> <p>How can you change the form?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Magnify</p> <p>What if parts were stronger? Higher? Longer? Wider?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minify</p> <p>What if the whole or parts were smaller?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Put to Other Use</p> <p>What are new or different uses?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Eliminate</p> <p>What parts can be removed?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Reverse/Rearrange</p> <p>Interchange components? New pattern or layout? Can the features be rearranged? Can the order be changed? What if the action was opposite?</p>	



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