



# Invention Log

## *The Story of Your Invention*

### What is an invention?

An invention is something new that enables us to solve a problem or do something better or easier.

### The Purpose of This Invention Log

This Invention Log will tell the story of your invention. You will write what you did, why you did it, and how you did it, for every step of making your invention. This Invention Log is an important part of the invention process and is a **complete and true record** of your ideas, plans, and steps.

### How to Use This Invention Log

The Invention Log is like a diary that you write in every time you work on your invention. Follow the steps in the Invention Process and fill out the pages as you work on them. When you are done with any page, **write your name and the date** at the bottom. If you need extra space for any section, make copies of the Blank Page. Once you are done, put the pages in order and staple them to make a complete Invention Log. This log will also be used as part of your final presentation. Because of this, except for things like a list of materials, all **sections should be filled in using complete sentences**.

### Adult Help

It is OK for an adult to help and support the inventor in making the invention and in filling out this Invention Log, but learning comes when the students do the work themselves. A poor sentence written by a student is better than a perfect sentence written by an adult. It is their invention. It is their Log. Let it be their words.

The Name of This Invention: \_\_\_\_\_

The Problem That It Solves:

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**Statement of Originality**

I promise that the ideas in this Invention Log are my own.

Inventor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Steps in the Invention Process

As you work on your invention, follow these steps and check them off as you complete them.

1.  What problem could you solve?
2.  What is a possible solution?
3.  Has this solution been done before?
4.  Make a drawing of the invention.
5.  What problems might you have with this design?
6.  How will you fix those problems?
7.  Repeat steps 5 to 7 until you have a design that you think will work.
8.  What parts and materials will you need to make the invention?
9.  Where will you get those parts and materials?
10.  What additional skills will you need to make the invention?
11.  Who can help you build the invention?
12.  Get the parts, materials and build the invention with help!
13.  Test the invention.
14.  Are there any problems with the invention?
15.  Repeat steps 5 to 15, until the invention works as planned.
16.  Name the invention.
17.  Plan and create the Invention Display Board.
18.  Practice what you will say about your invention.
19.  Be proud of what you have done.

## Explaining the Problem and Identifying a Solution

1. What problem are you trying to solve?

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2. What is a possible solution?

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3. Has this solution been done before?

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### Creating and Improving the Design

4. **Make a drawing of the invention you are thinking about building.** Label all the important parts and features. Explain how the invention will work. If you need more space, use another blank page.

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5. What problems or issues might you have with this design? Who did you talk to about this design? (another student, parent, teacher, etc.) What did they think about your design?

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6. How can you fix those problems?

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7. Repeat steps 5 to 7 until you have a design that you think will work. You may have to copy and make multiple copies of this blank page until you have a good design.





**10.    What will you need to be able to do to make or build this invention?**

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**11.    Who can help you build the invention?**

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**12.    Get the parts, materials and build the invention with help. How did it go?**

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13. Test the invention. Does it work?

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14. Are there any problems with the invention? What will you change to make it better?

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15. Repeat steps 5 to 15, until the invention works as planned. You may have to copy and make multiple copies of this blank page until you have an invention that works the way you want.

## 16. Naming the Invention

What words describe your invention?

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What does your invention do? How will it solve the problem? How will it help others? How is your invention different from others?

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Who would use your invention?

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**Some creative, attention-getting techniques you can use, are:**

Alliteration (using the same first letters or sounds): "Kit Kat"

Rhyming: "Light Bright"

Alternative spelling: "Sno Bal"

Using numbers in the name: "Super Clean 2000"

Describing the function of the invention: "Hydro-Blast"

Based on your brainstorming, what are some good names for your invention?

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Which name do you like best?

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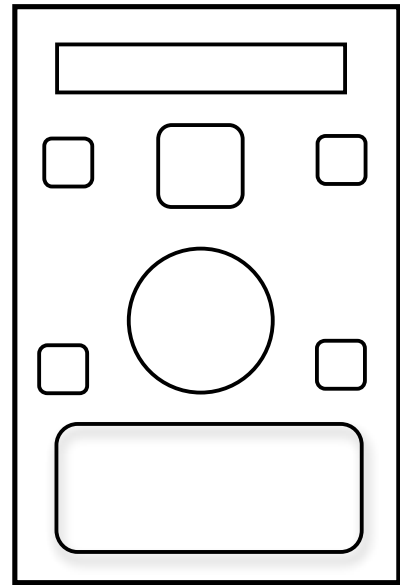
## 17. Plan and create the Invention Display Board

This is an example of what a Display Board might look like, but you can make it look anyway you want.

This is YOUR invention and YOUR display so use your creativity to tell the story of your invention the way you want.

However, be sure you use

- **Fonts** that are readable (style, size, color)
- **Colors** that look good together
- **Shapes** that are the right size
- Correct **grammar**
- Proper **punctuation**
- Check the **spelling** of all words



Your **Display Board MUST** have the following:

- The name of your **invention**
- The **purpose** of the invention or the problem it solves
- A **description** of how the invention works
- Your **name, grade, school & town**

You **might also want to add** this information:

- How the invention was made & used
- Biography of the inventor
- Words explaining pictures/photographs/drawings/charts
- Scientific principles were used in your invention (Examples: buoyancy, heat transfer, etc)
- Kinds of engineering used in your invention (Examples: Electronics, optics, etc)
- Testimonials or stories from users
- Any other information about the invention that will help explain it or why it's good.

**Maximum Size:** With the wings folded in, the Display Board can only take **24"** of table space. However, you are allowed to open up the wings during your Judging Circle presentation

## 18. Practice what you will say about your invention

Here are some **questions that you might be asked** in the Judging Circle by the judges or other students. Have an adult ask the questions and you can practice answering them. Think: **What other questions might you be asked?**

How did you come up with the idea for this invention?

What types of people does this problem affect?

How did you think up your solution to the problem?

Where did you get the materials for the invention?

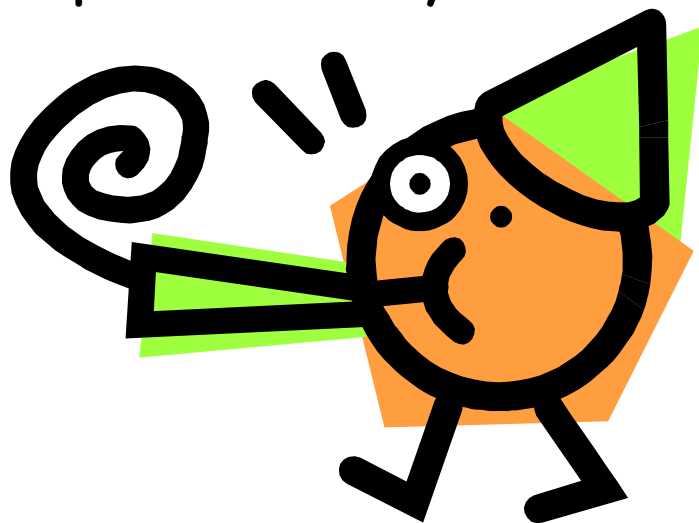
Who helped you build the invention and what did they help you do?

Are there other materials that you could use that are better?

Who has used your invention and what did they think about it?

What changes might you want to make to your invention?

19. Be proud of what you have done



You will use the problem-solving and communication skills you have gained here throughout your life and career. Congratulations on what you've done!



## Blank Page for additional information

This blank page is available for you to add anything to your Invention Log that will help explain what you did, how you did it and what the results were. This could be drawings, calculations, descriptions, test results, etc. Multiple copies of this page can be inserted anywhere you want in the Invention Log.

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