LULAC Program Curriculum: 2021 Latina LEADS Program
Activity Theme: Technology
Estimated Time: 15-20 minutes
Introduction: Technology is revolutionizing how we care for our pets. It's providing new ways to monitor their wellbeing and engage with them. Can you think of other ways we can use tech to make a pet's life happier or a pet owner's life easier?   Through this activity, you will work as a team to develop an innovative product that will better your pet's life and/or help pet owners care for their furry friends.
Materials/Special Requests: Activity worksheets
Instructions: 1. As a class, review the **Keys for Successful Brainstorming Sessions** worksheet.   2. The instructor will create four groups and assign an equal number of students to each group.   3. Each group will work together to brainstorm a new pet tech product.   4. As a group, you will have 15-minutes to complete the following worksheets to develop an innovative product.   a. You will present your product to the group.   5. After 15 minutes, all groups will come together and each group will share their product.
Extension: +20 minutes   Each group will collaborate to create a 3D design of their product. Designs can be created using shapes, hardware, machinery, and much more.   3D designs can be made using Tinkercad.com, a free, easy-to-use web app design tool.

Keys for Successful Brainstorming Sessions

Working as a team through a brainstorming session can lead to a lot of great ideas and increased innovation! However, it's important to understand that the goal of a brainstorming session is not to find the perfect idea, it's to collaborate to come up with lots of ideas that will eventually lead to the most adequate solution or approach for the problem you are trying to solve.

The following rules are key when hosting brainstorming sessions to ensure their success.

1. **Stay focused on the goal.** Clearly define the problem you want to solve and what your goals are for this brainstorming session.

2. **Make your voice heard.** Brainstorming sessions are the most effective when all people participate and make their voices heard. Don't be shy to share your ideas as they can always contribute to a greater vision.

3. **Give space to listen to other's voices.** Sharing your ideas is great, and it's equally great to listen to the ideas of your teammates. Be sure to give space for all of your peers to share their thoughts and ideas, especially if they are more shy than you.

4. **Don't judge an idea.** Every idea can help your team get closer to a great idea so it is important for participants to have an open mind to all ideas and not judge the ideas of other group members. It's important for everyone to feel comfortable sharing their ideas and allowing others to build on them.

5. **Encourage creative thinking.** Innovation has oftentimes emerged from wild ideas that were once not considered possible. By encouraging wacky ideas and thinking "outside-the-box" you may come up with a solution or approach that has never been considered before!

6. **Build on the ideas of others.** One of the many benefits of working together as a team is that you are all working towards a common goal. Take advantage of this opportunity and build on each other's ideas to come up with an idea that is out of this world!

7. **Share ideas creatively.** Some people are better visual learners and thinkers. You can communicate ideas out loud, in writing, or even through drawings.

8. **Quantity can lead to quality.** During a brainstorming session, the goal is to produce as many ideas as you can think of. These are meant to be built on and do not need to be elaborate. The more ideas your team produces, the closer you may be to a solution.

9. **Keep notes.** Keeping track of the ideas that are shared will help you in future sessions.

Pet Tech Pioneer Worksheet

Product Name: _____

Big Ideas for Product:

_____

_____

_____

What key problems are you trying to solve through your product?

_____

_____

_____

What are the key features of your product?

_____

_____

_____

What are some competing products that are already available?

_____

_____

_____

What makes your product different or special?

_____

_____

_____

Brainstorming Space: