



# ELEMENTARY ENGINEERING

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# GOALS

- Deepen understanding of what engineering is, of elementary engineering processes, and of success factors for elementary students with the goal of improving teaching of engineering at the elementary level.
- Move understanding of teachers whether just starting the teaching of engineering or experienced engineering teachers.

# LOGISTICS

- Slides at [kidsengineer.com](http://kidsengineer.com) under Resources-> Presentations
- SCHEDULE 8:30 to 12:00
  - Introduction and Setup
  - Activity
  - EDP Processes
  - Reflections and Summary
- FOOD (bring your own lunch, coffee and snacks anytime)

**ENGINEERING** is  
applying understanding  
of the world in the  
**PURSUIT** of solutions to  
problems.



**If we want the next generation  
of children to be innovators, we  
need to give them practice  
innovating**





Make solar energy economical



Provide energy from fusion



Develop carbon sequestration methods



Manage the nitrogen cycle



Provide access to clean water



Restore and improve urban infrastructure



Advance health informatics



Engineer better medicines



Reverse-engineer the brain



Prevent nuclear terror



Secure cyberspace



Enhance virtual reality



Advance personalized learning



Engineer the tools of scientific discovery



# Celia & Isabel & Andrew



- Entering First Grade (6 & 7 years old)
- 3 day camp (3 hours per day) at Tufts
- Pirate's Gold Challenge
- Hold 15 pieces of gold
- Stay together when dropped





I: Okay Now try it (try the drop test

**C: No, we already did the crash test. We don't have to do it again. We made it thicker that means its stronger so we don't have to do it**

I: but

A: If you make it thicker it will fall down. It will break easier.

**C: Yeah, the layers will break but not the real part. These are just layers.**

A: If you make it taller and thicker it will break easier.

**C: Well, we're just doing what we think.**

I: I put a little layers. You put a lot.



# TAP CREATIVE PLAY



- Who is tapping into creative play? Are we?





# TAP CREATIVE PLAY

It's more fun to actually be building something. If you took a class in robots and just learned about things, if the teacher just drilled information into your head, it would not be as fun as building and experiencing it to learn.

*Grade 6 Girl 2*

# ENGINEERING DEFINITION

Engineering requires applying content knowledge and cognitive processes to design, analyze, and troubleshoot complex systems to meet society's needs." (Brophy et al., 2008, p. 371) Implicit in that definition is creating models and predicting performance, which is what separates true engineering from trial and error methods.

# DRAW (OR DIAGRAM) THE ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

- What things do you need to do to go from problem to solution?

KIDS CAN.....

**ENGINEER**



*Informal test*

Customer: I'll take two coconuts (at Cr\$ 40.00 each. Pays with a Cr\$ 500.00 bill). What do I get back?

Child: (Before reaching for customer's change) 80, 90, 100, 420.

*Formal test*

Test item:  $420 + 80$ .

The child writes 420 plus 80 and claims that 130 is the result. [The procedure used was not explained but it seems that the child applied a step of a multiplication routine to an addition problem by successively adding 8 to 2 and then to 4, carrying the 1; that is,  $8 + 2 = 10$ , carry the one,  $1 + 4 + 8 = 13$ . The zeros in 420 and 80 were not written. Reaction times were obtained from tape recordings and the whole process took 53 seconds.]

Examiner: How did you do this one, 420 plus 80?

Child: Plus?

Examiner: Plus 80.

Child: 100, 200.

Examiner: (After a 5 second pause, interrupts the child's response treating it as final) Hum, OK.

Child: Wait a minute. That was wrong. 500. [The child had apparently added 80 and 20, obtaining one hundred, and then started adding the hundreds. The experimenter interpreted 200 as the final answer after a brief pause but the child completed the computation and gave the correct answer when solving the addition problem by a manipulation-with-quantities approach.]

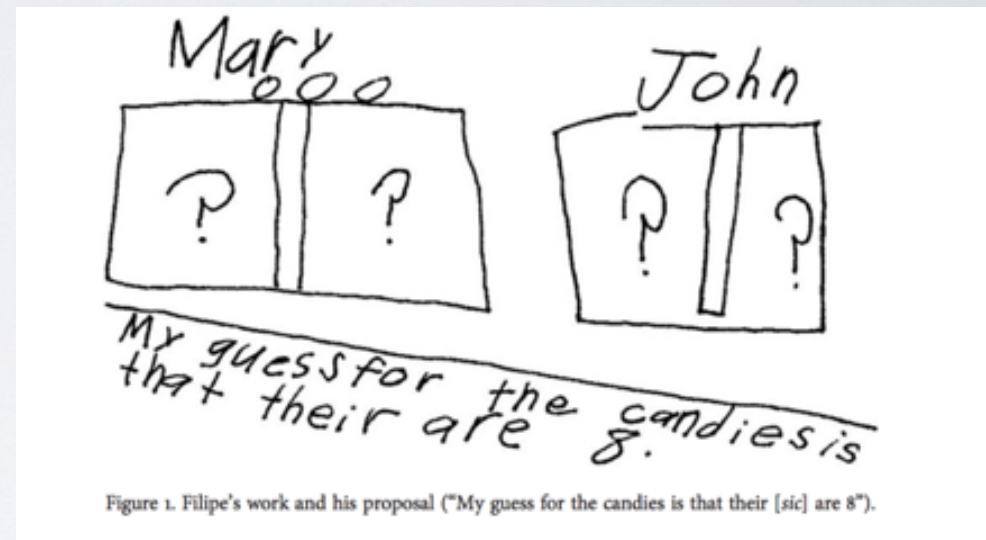


Figure 1. Filipe's work and his proposal ("My guess for the candies is that their [sic] are 8").

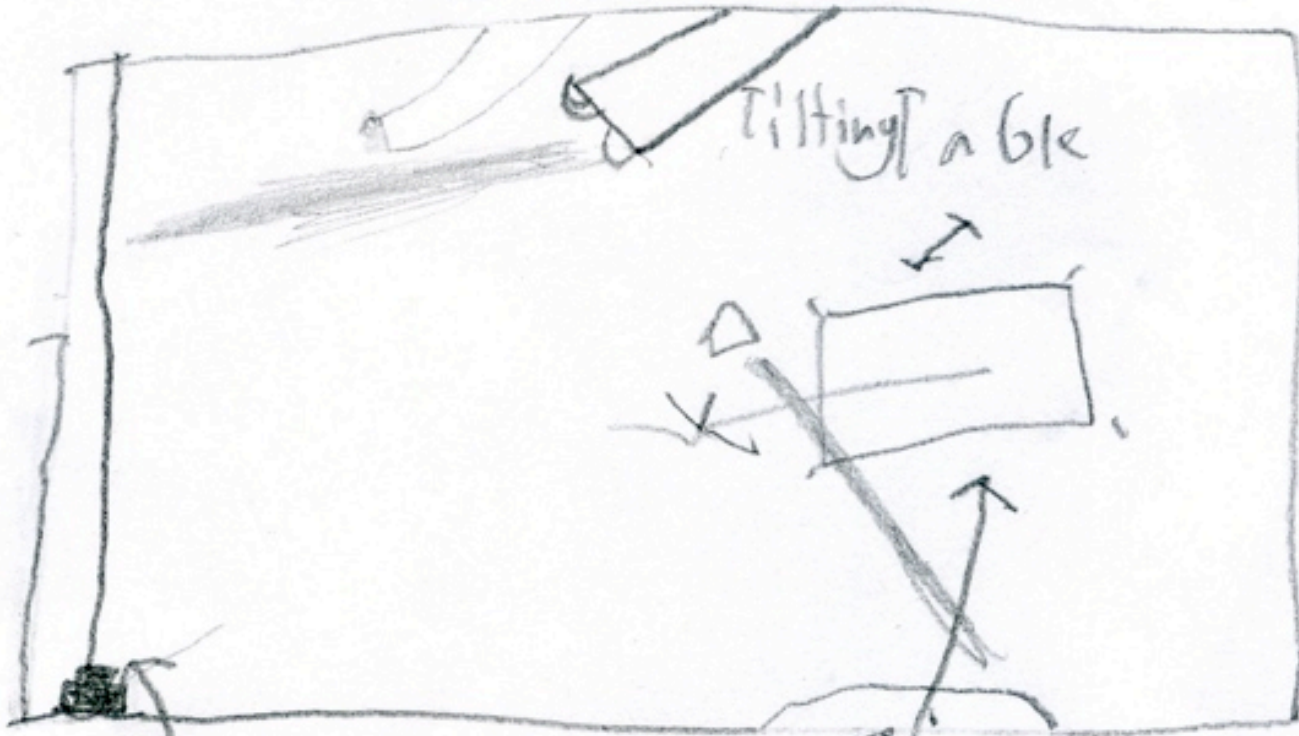
Carraher, T. N., Carraher, D. W. and Schliemann, A. D. (1985)

Brizuela, B. (2016)

# ENGINEERING



motion sensor



tilting table

Trip wire

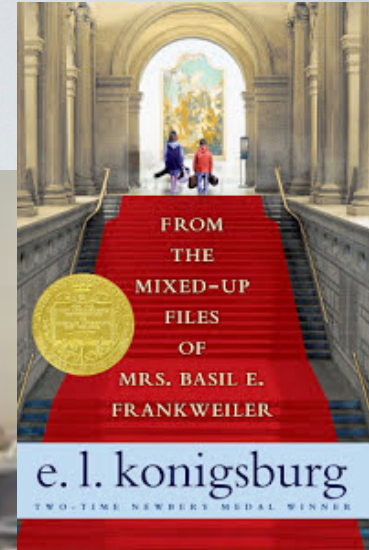
window



Novel  
Engineering



O: So we would have them and do you wanna make this out of wood?



- [novelengineering.org](http://novelengineering.org)

Time	TRANSCRIPT
00:00.0	So we would have them and do you wanna make this out of wood?
00:05.1	hmm wood would be more artificial but it would take longer
00:09.1	It would take longer but it would be stronger and um
00:16.0	But how would um they would how would they get the wood?
00:21.0	Do they have to?
00:23.1	Yeah but if they if when they but remember Jamie's really cheap
00:28.2	Yeah he is.
00:30.1	So if they wouldn't probably get the wood the would probably get cardboard cause
00:37.1	Yeah
00:37.3	I see what you're saying. I see what you're saying.
00:40.2	Cause Jamie's cheap and that would probably cost like a lot more than cardboard
00:45.2	But then cardboard is wouldn't be as sturdy and um you know how flimsy cardboard is
00:53.2	Yeah I mean
00:58.1	But then they once the get the wood they'd have the card
01:02.2	They'd have to get glue. They'd have to get all those stuff.
01:05.2	They could use nails.
01:06.2	Yeah but nails cost more than glue.

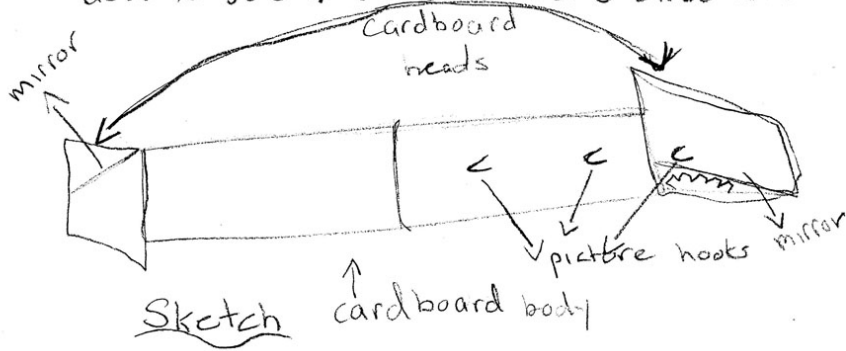
14 April, 2011

Dear Tufts Engineers,

Hello, our names are

We are reading the book From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg, and we noticed a problem that we might be able to solve as engineers! The problem we chose is how to see the statue Angel better. We chose this problem because Jamie and Claudia need to get a better look at Angel to see who sculpted her.

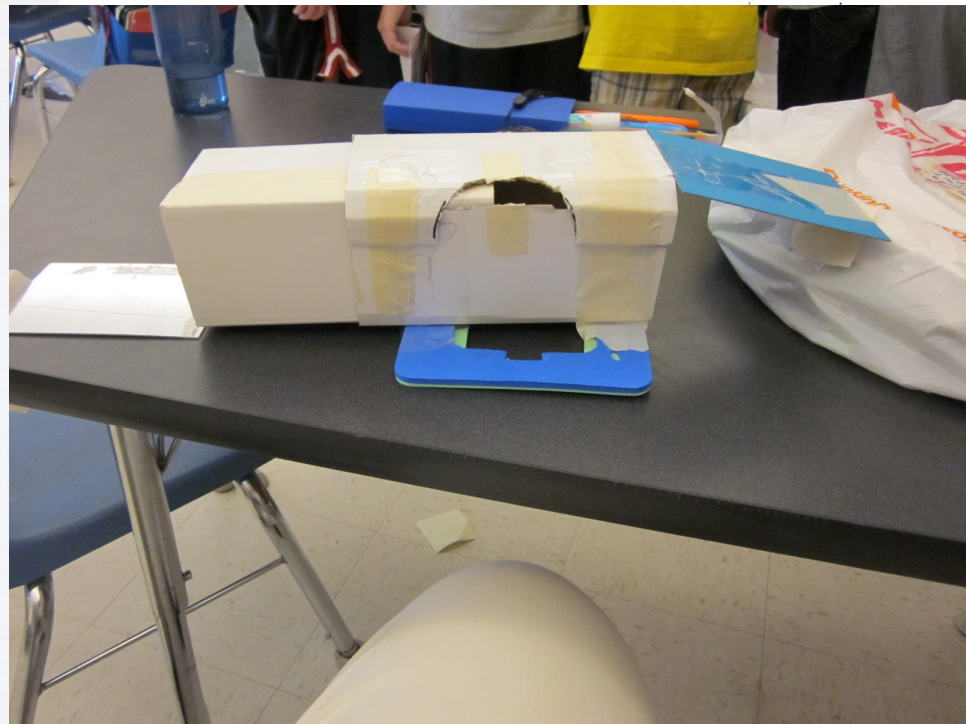
My partner and I plan to solve the problem by building a periscope-like device to see above the heads of adults and around obstacles. Unlike a regular periscope the mirror in the head can move up and down to see in more than one direction.



- The materials we think we will need are:
- 5 medium cardboard packing boxes for the body and the heads.
  - 2 6 by 6 cm mirrors for seeing out of the periscope.
  - 6 picture hooks for locking the head.
  - 5 cm of stiff plastic tubing to lock the gear.
  - 2 rolls of red duct tape for reinforcing the body and heads.
  - 4 thick rubber bands for locking the head.

We hope we can successfully build our contraption!

Sincerely,



# BURGLAR ALARMS



# MOTIVATING

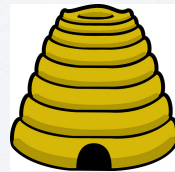




# YEAR 1 CLEVER SOLUTION



Open Ended Challenges



# STARTER TASK

- Cooling Fan - Walk Thru Quick



# TASK

- Design a safe and fun amusement park ride
- See student checklist (use)

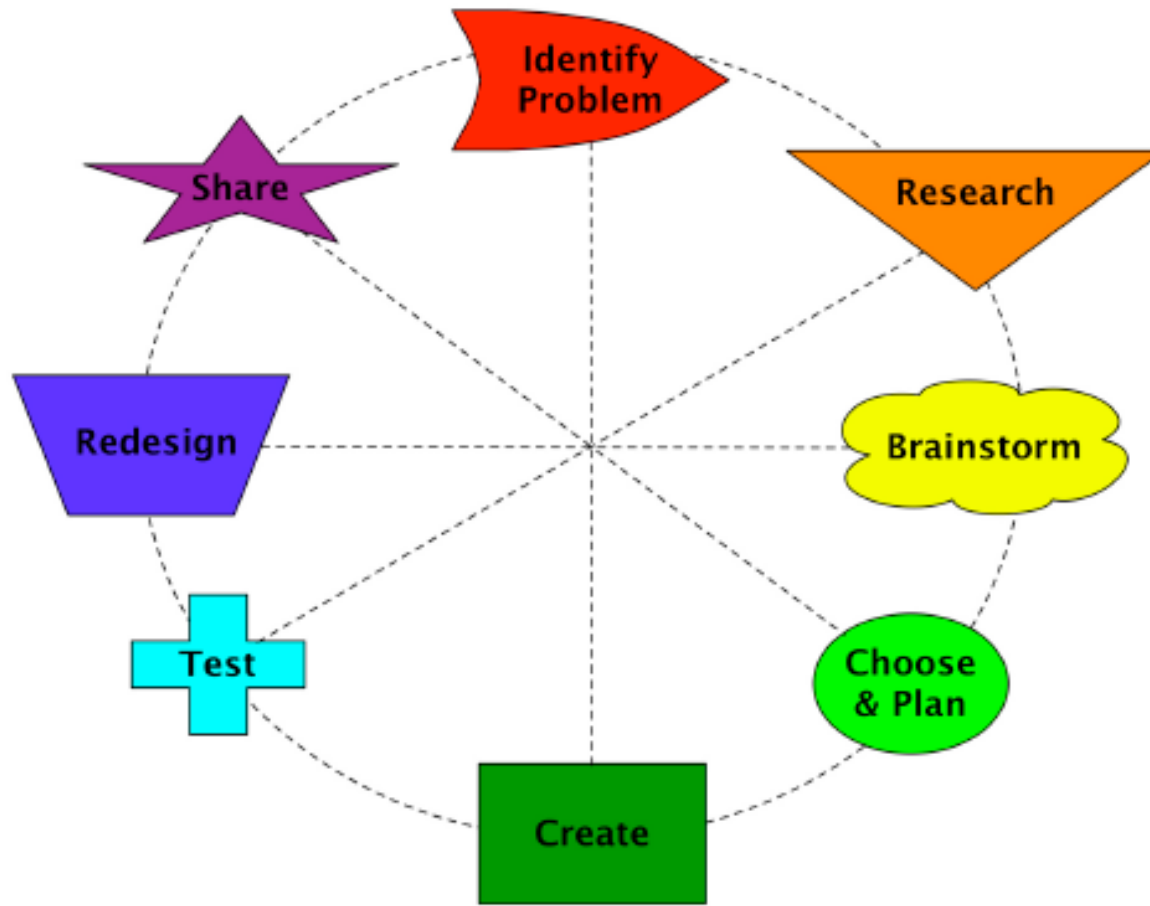
# RIDE FAIR

- Take turns with partner pitching and switching

# REFLECT ON YOUR DESIGN PROCESS

- How did the work you did creating the ride compare to your initial representation of the design process?
- Where was it the same ? Where was it different?

# Engineering Design Process



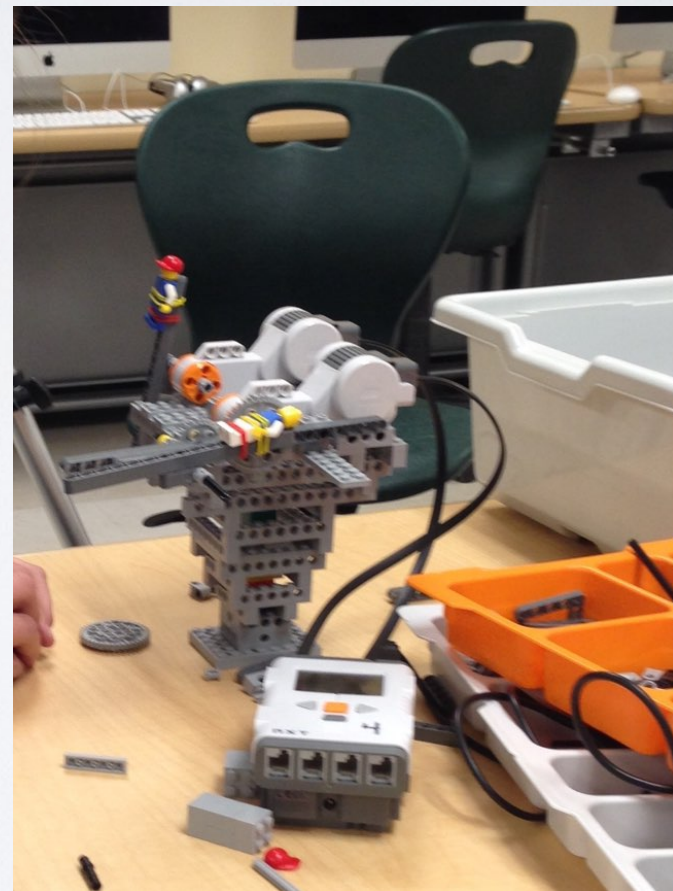
Courtesy - Dr Meredith Portsmore, Tufts CEOO

# WE WANT STUDENTS TO **DO** ENGINEERING

- We don't want students to memorize steps
- We want them to be good at practices that support finding solutions
  - Leveraging their knowledge in math, science, ELA
  - Know when to persist and when to start over



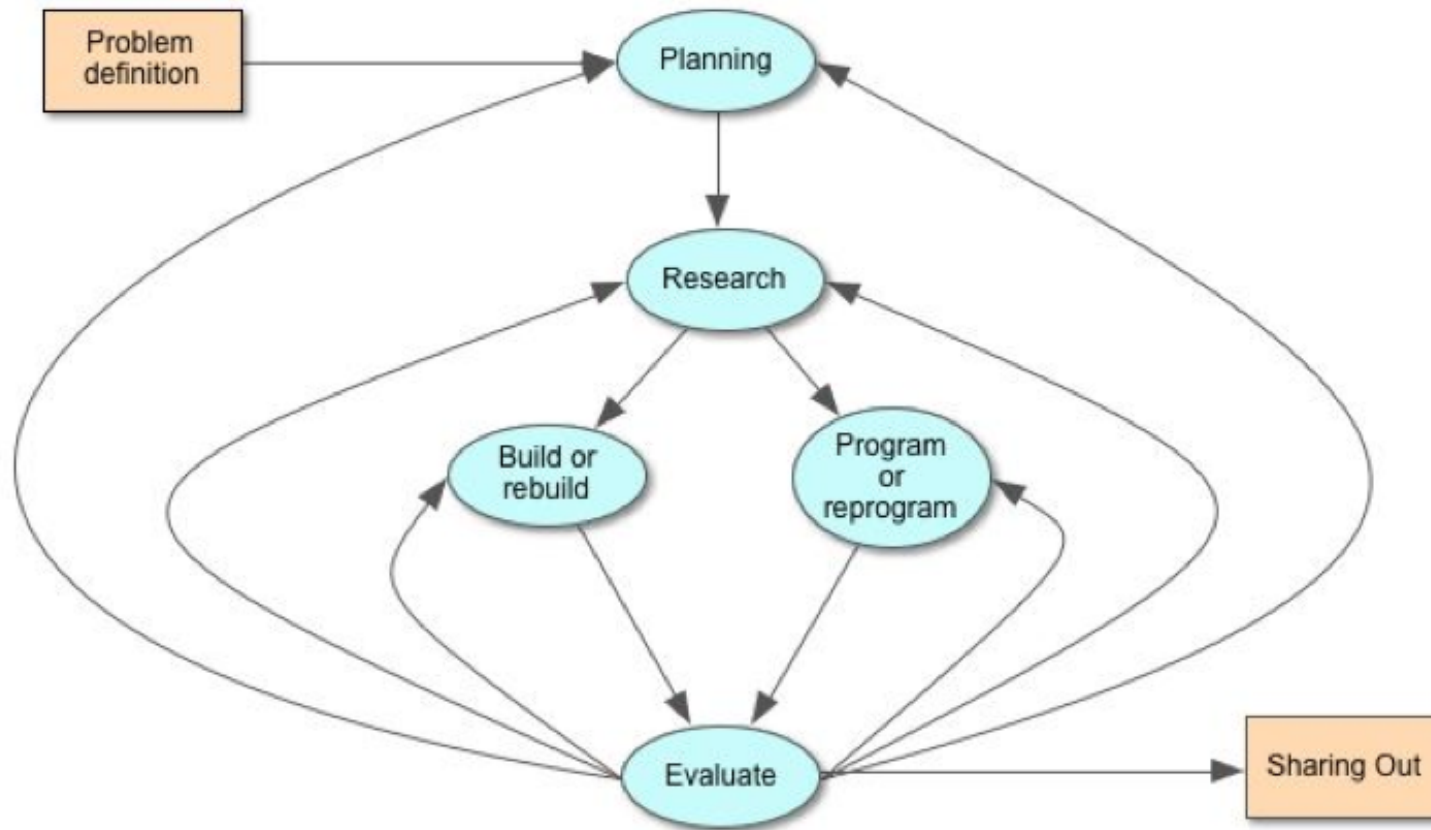
# CROSS CASE STUDY OF ELEMENTARY ENGINEERING TASK



# RESEARCH QUESTION

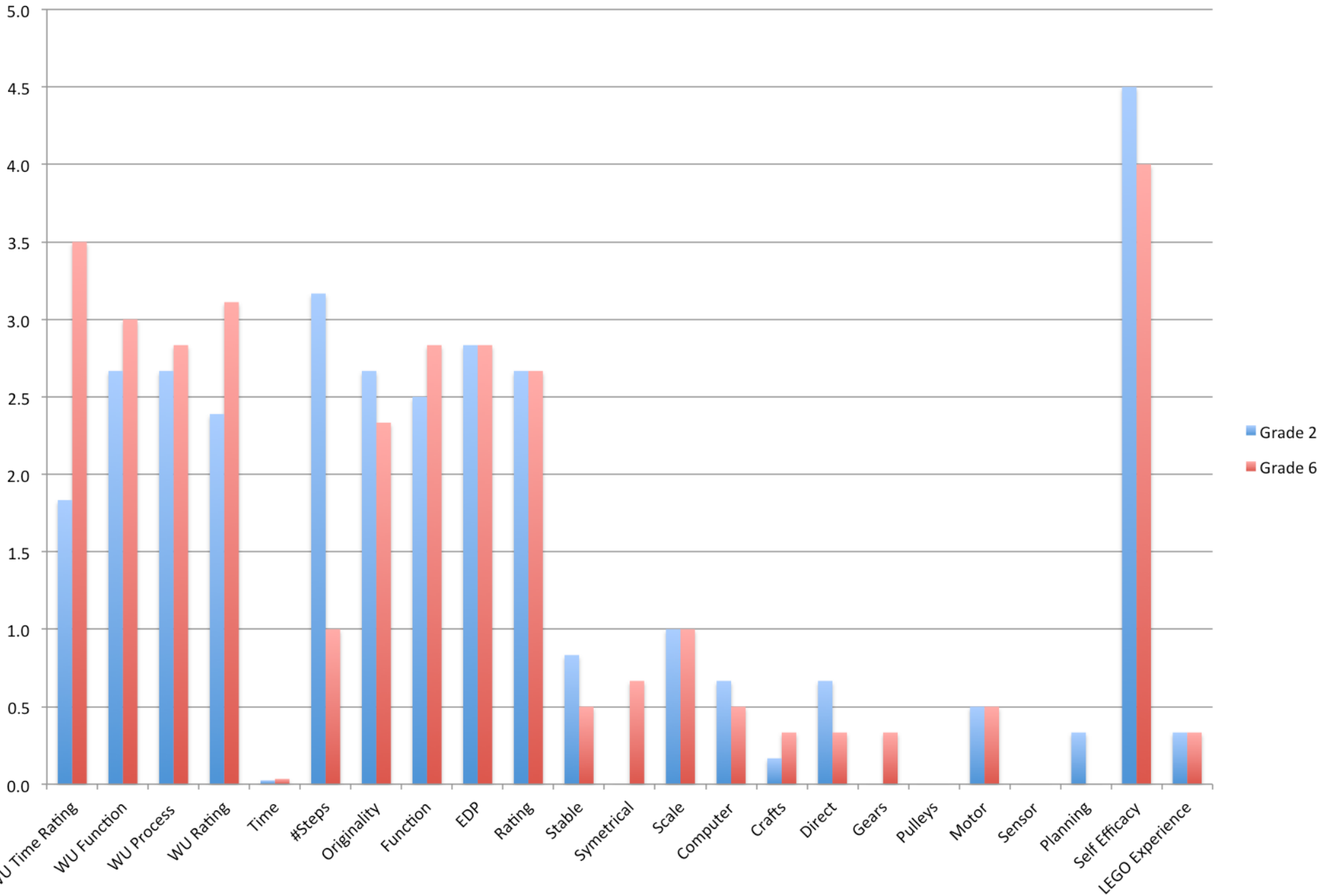


- Do grade 2 and grade 6 students' engineering design processes and final products differ? If so, what are the specific differences?
- Do male and female students' engineering design processes and final products differ? If so, what are the specific differences?
- Added: if differences are not seen by gender and grade level, what relationships do explain the differing final products and engineering design processes of elementary students?
- First, need an EDP model for this study

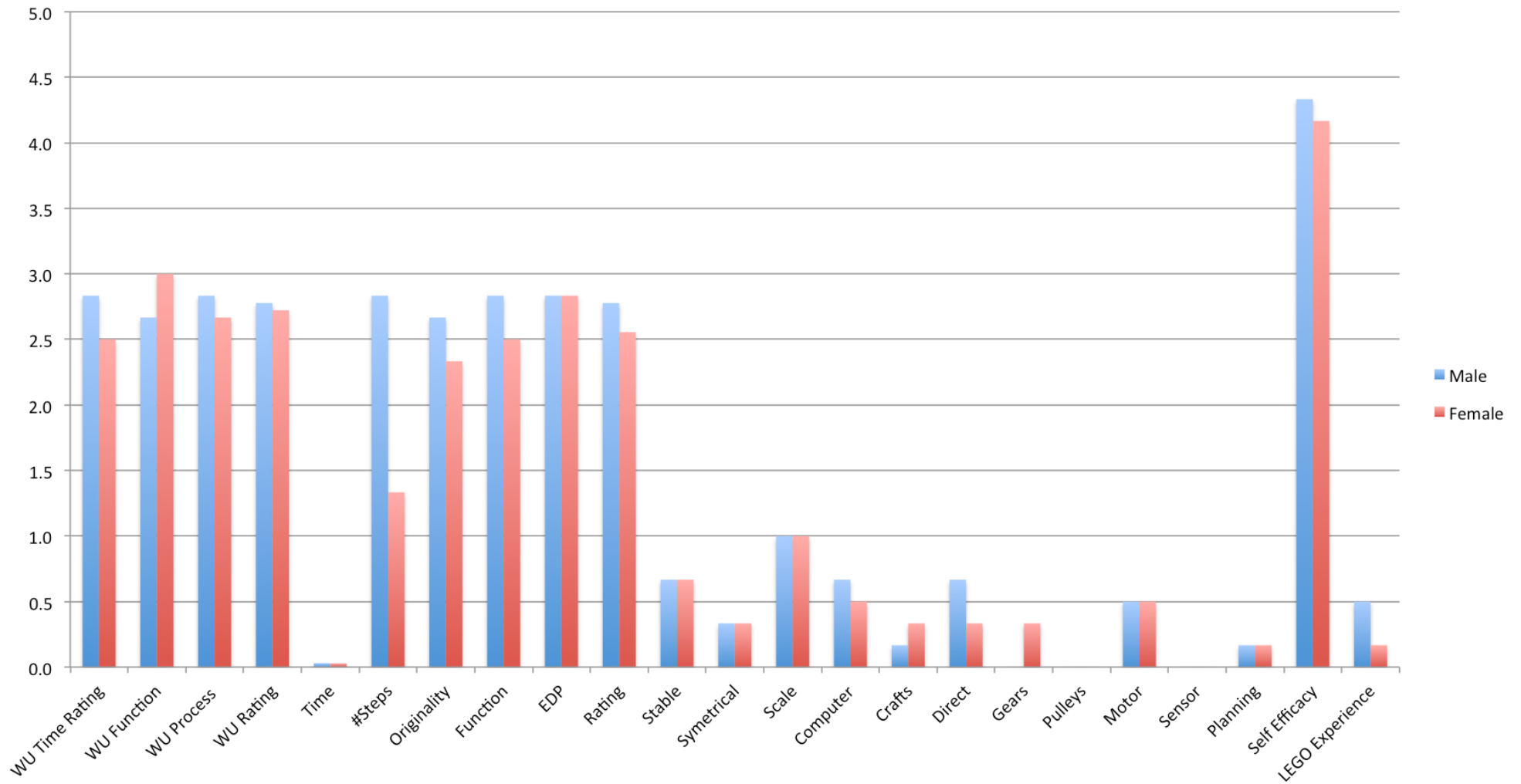


*Engineering design process model for this study*

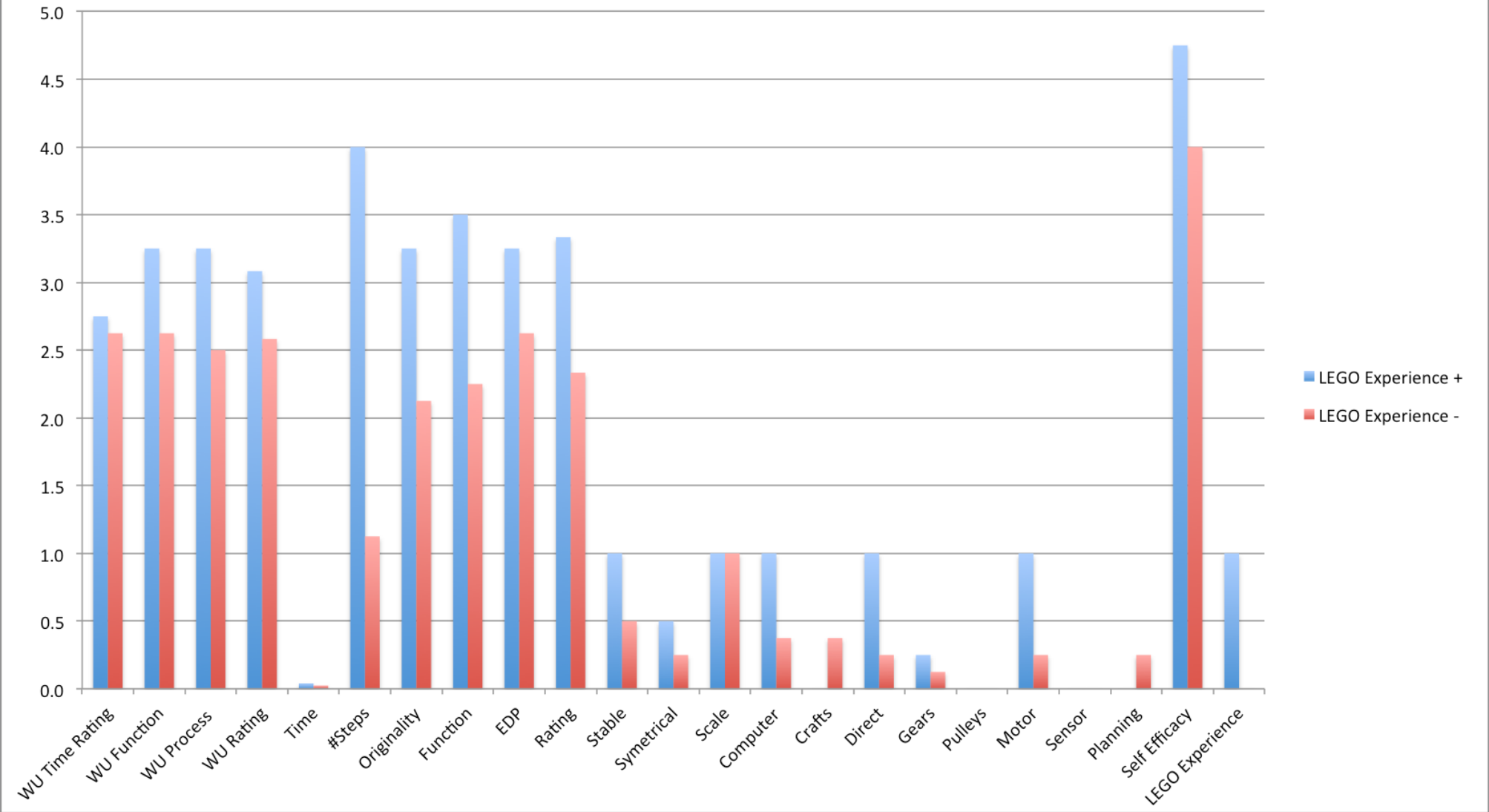
# Finished Model Design Data by Grade Level



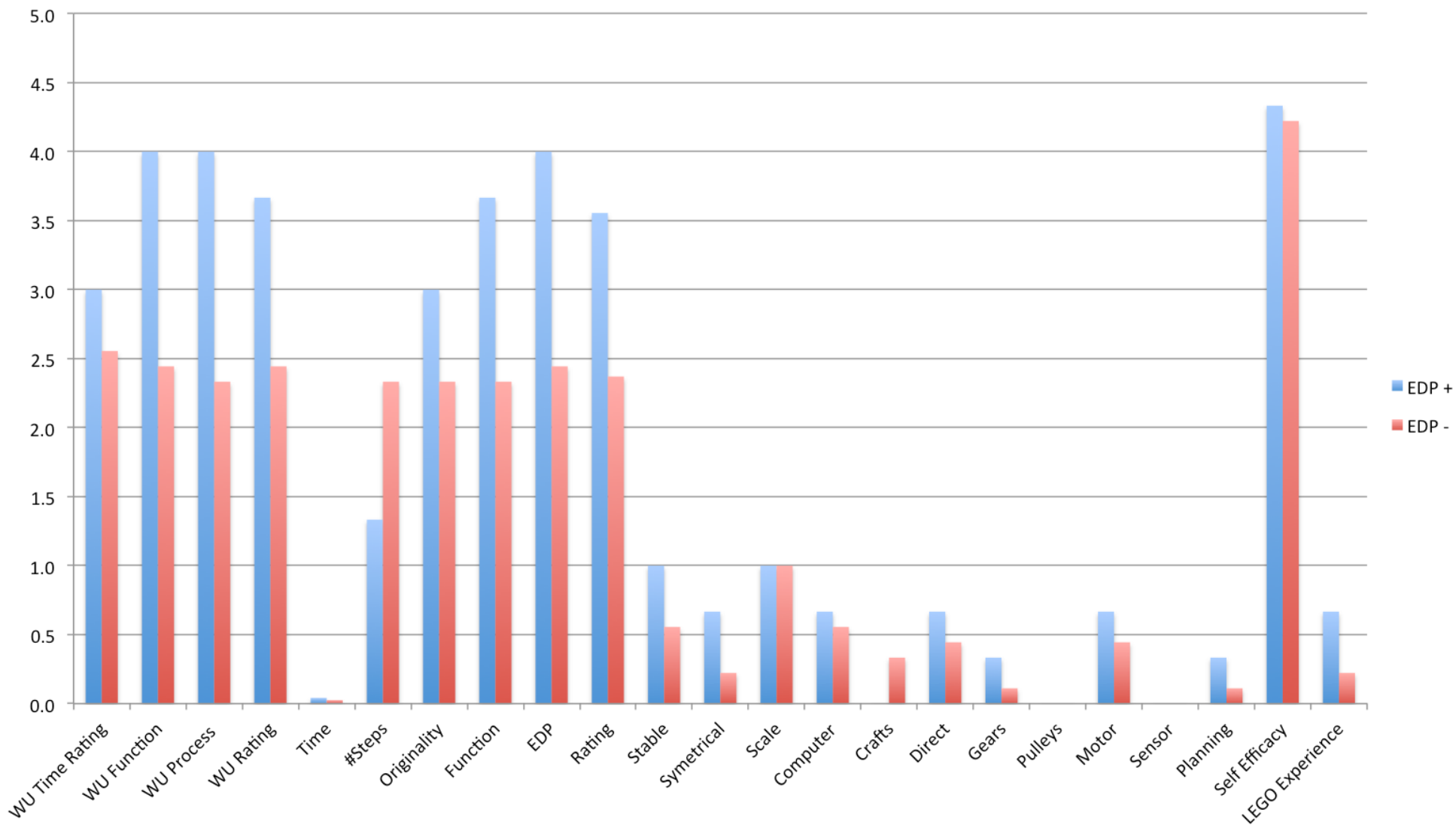
# Finished Model Design Data by Gender



# Finished Model Design Data by LEGO Experience



# Finished Model Design Data by EDP+/-

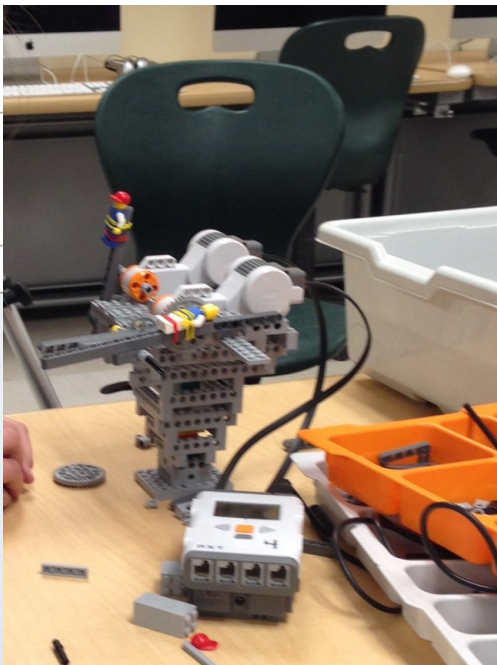
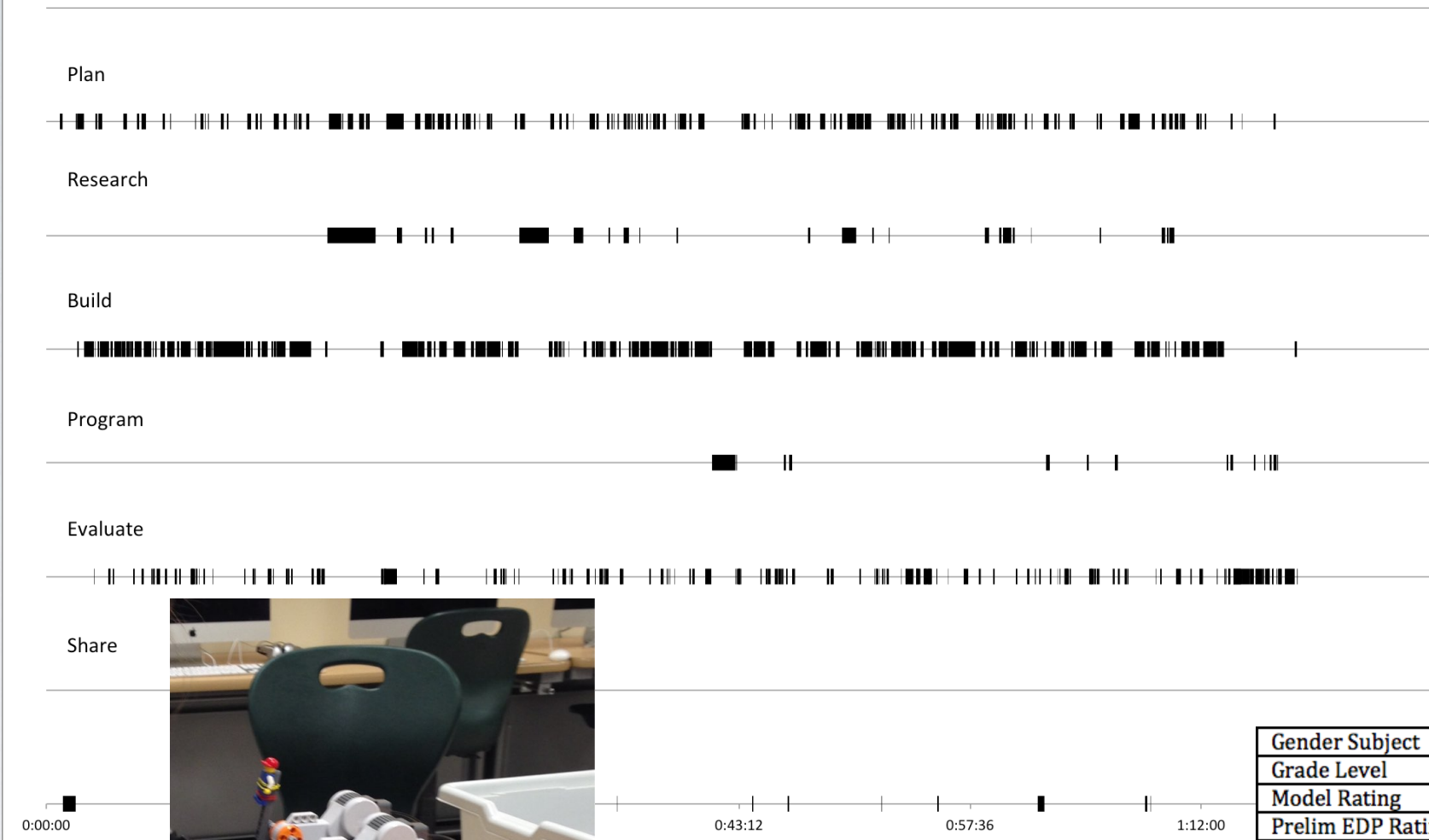






# High complexity, high tools

## Girl 5 EDP Timeline



Gender Subject	Girl 5
Grade Level	6
Model Rating	3.7
Prelim EDP Rating	4
LEGO Experience	1
Motor	1
SK	High
Math/Science	High
Design Principles	High
EDP Process	High
CR	High
Plan-Ahead	High
CF	High

## Girl 8 EDP Timeline

Plan



Research



Build



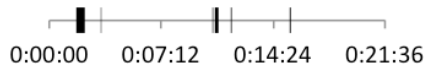
Program



Evaluate

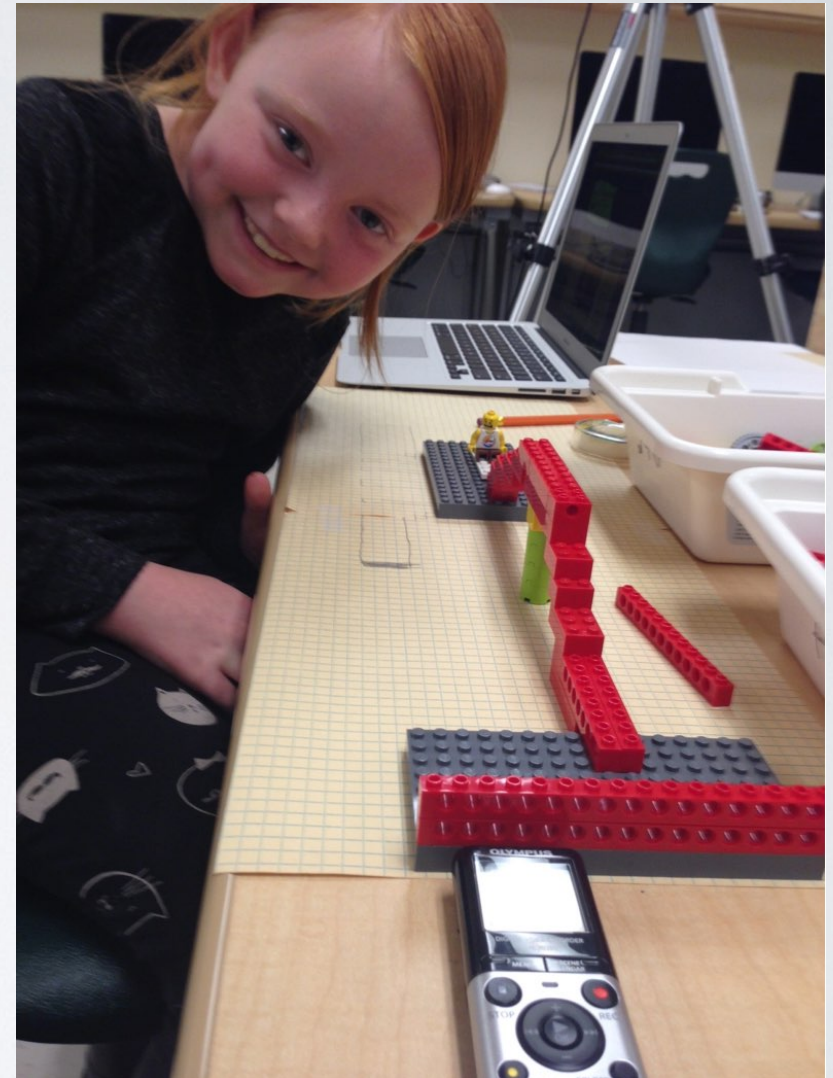


Share



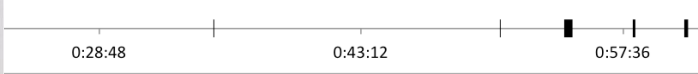
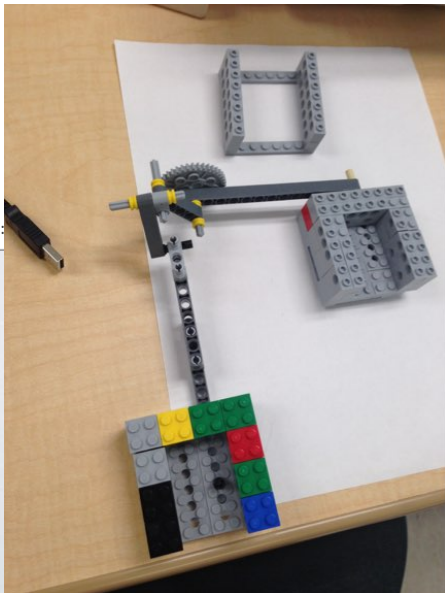
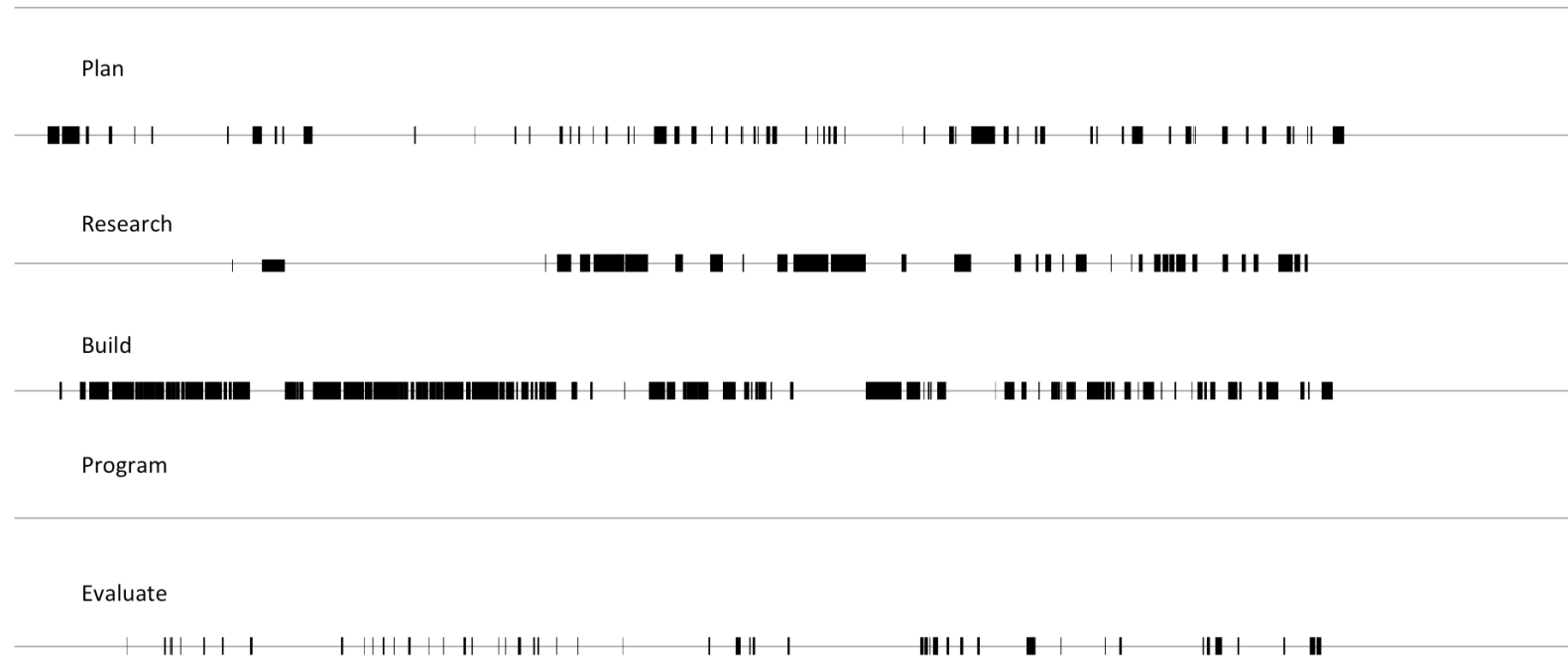
*Low complexity, high tools*

Gender Subject	Girl 8
Grade Level	2
Model Rating	3.3
Prelim EDP Rating	4
LEGO Experience	0
Motor	0
SK	High
Math/Science	High
Design Principles	High
EDP Process	High
CR	High
Plan-Ahead	High
CF	Medium



# High complexity, low tools

## Girl 3 EDP Timeline



*Never finished*

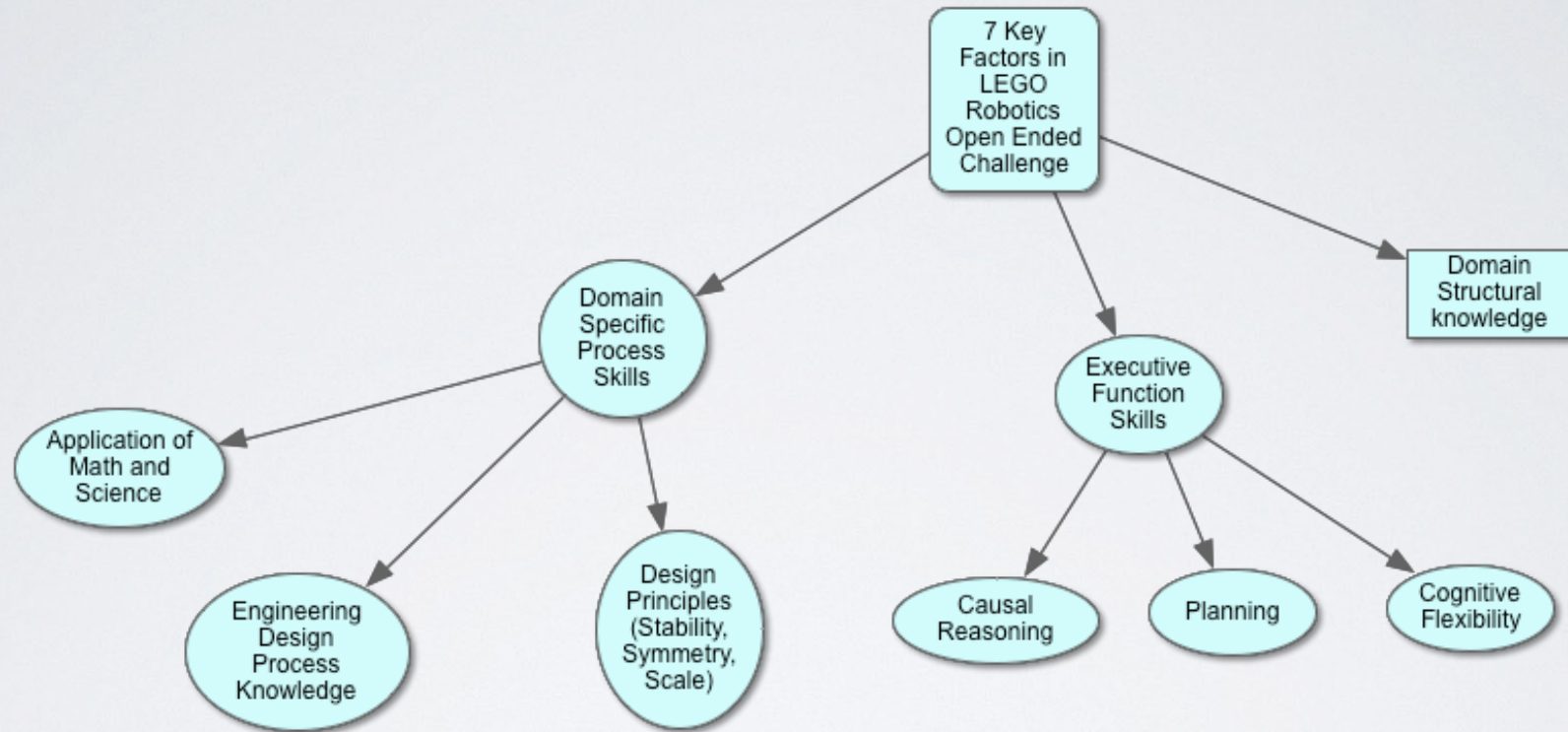
Gender Subject	Girl 3
Grade Level	6
Model Rating	1.3
Prelim EDP Rating	2
LEGO Experience	0
Motor	1 (Intended)
SK	Low
Math/Science	Low
Design Principles	Low
EDP Process	Medium
CR	Low
Plan-Ahead	Low
CF	Low

<b>Complexity</b> <b>Tools</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Low</b>	Boy 3, Girl 6	Boy 8	Girl 3
<b>Medium</b>	Boy 4	Girl 4, Boy 7, Girl 9, Boy 6	
<b>High</b>	Girl 8		Girl 5, Boy 5

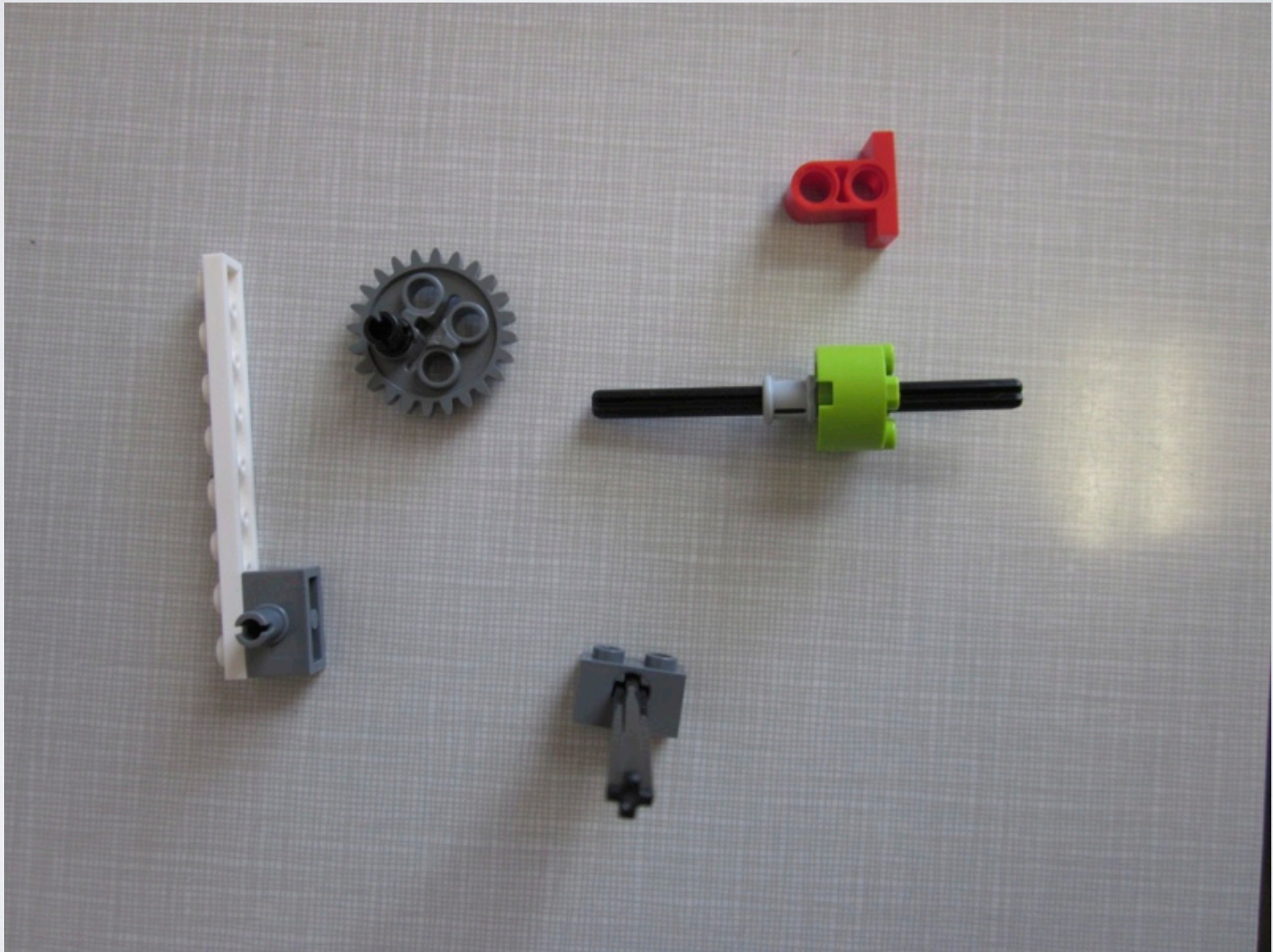
*Look at graphs especially outliers:*

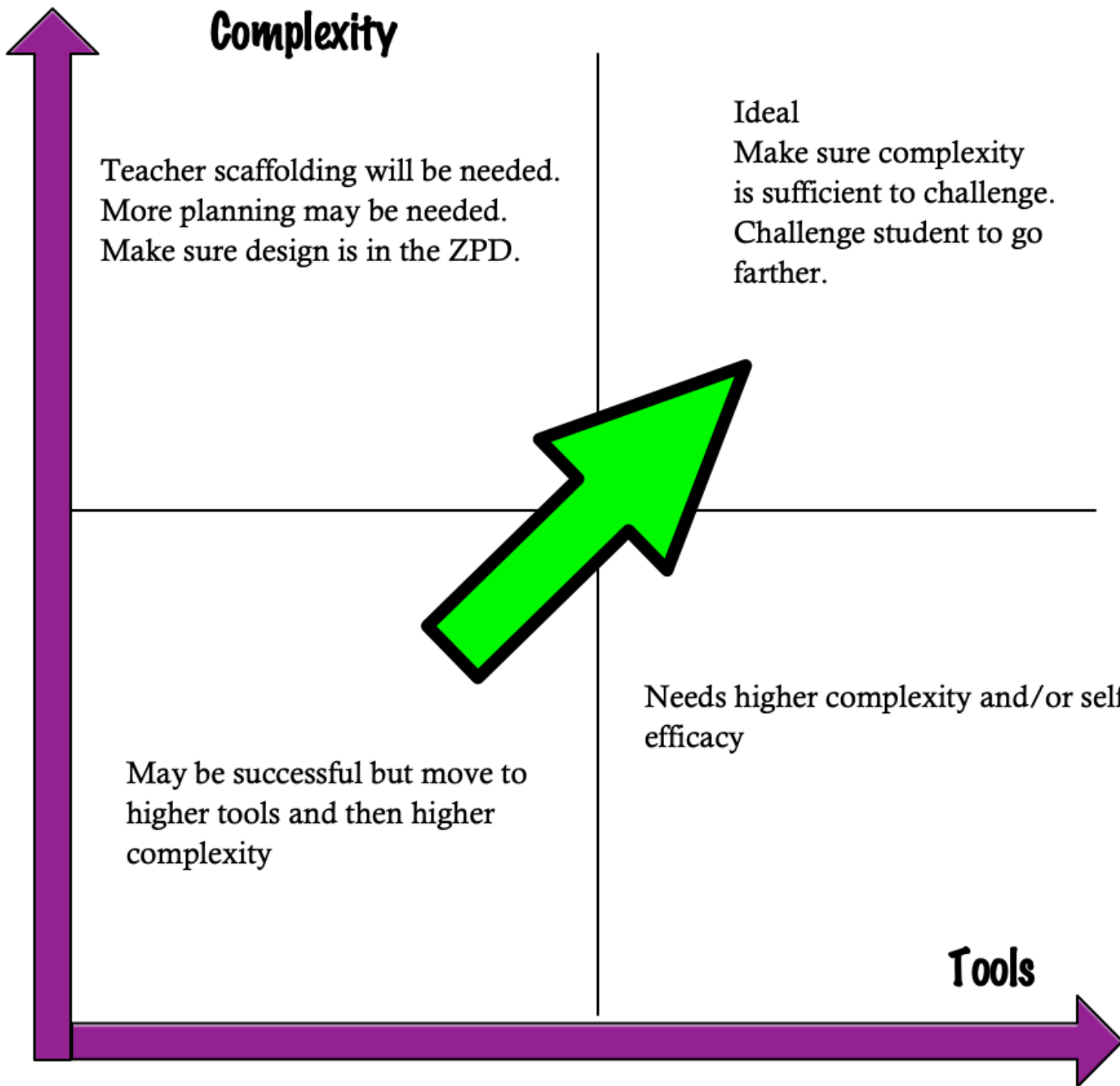
- *Girl 5, Boy 5 - dense, mix of phases throughout*
- *Boy 3, Girl 6 - build away!*
- *Girl 3 - DNF, ongoing research and planning, which never resolved issues, serial building did not work for her*
- *Girl 8 - “idealized” EDP - plan and build*

# SEVEN FACTORS



# KEY WEDO | CONNECTORS





# REFLECTION

- What was it like?
- What was new for you?
- What was challenging



# TEACHER INTERVIEW



# TO DO

- Add slides - MP
- Get materials (kits, devices, food, coffee, sign in sheet)
- Post presentation on [kidsengineer.com](http://kidsengineer.com)
- Numbers (WCS=4, BES=11, NES=10, CO=1, SPED?) Say 30 so 15 kits and iPads
- Get art supplies for posters
- Setup room including screen and A/V