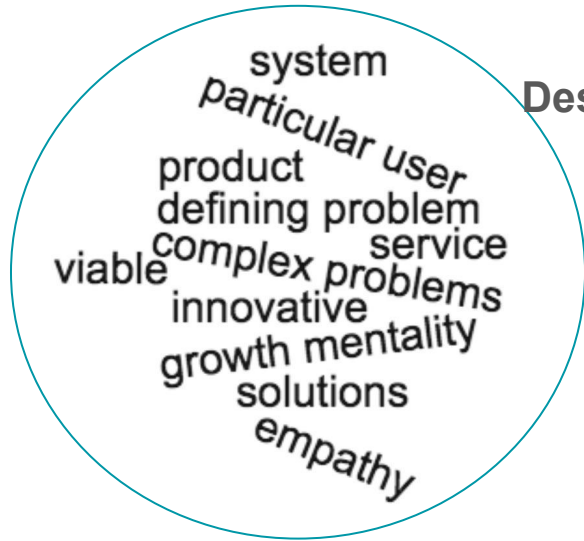# How might we help someone to gain perspective on school dropouts: Research Compiled Using Design Thinking and Liberatory Design

Beatriz Lorenzo Botella

Design Thinking and Liberatory Design

system
particular user
product
defining problem
viable complex problems
service
innovative
growth mentality
solutions
empathy

Design Thinking + Equity = Liberatory Design

I was asked to team up with other students and participate in a liberatory design process to help another student become a more culturally responsive teacher.

What Does it Mean to Be A Culturally Responsive Educator?

Deeply empathic educator

Of open mentality

Leverages the enriching process that is to be aware of the diversity of cultures and individuals

Proactively works to remedy bias in the system

Notice

The notice phase of liberatory design is when you start challenging your own ideas about diversity.

Beatriz: a snapshot

Culturally biased.

Different people from different cultures -> different way to think and express themselves.

Impulse control needed to think outside my assumptions.

Empathy Work

In the empathy phase we recognize oppression and examine the systems at play in our context:

the educational system.

Haydn and Kayce interview:

To be more culturally responsive we need to be mindful of not hurting other people's feelings.

See the System

Awareness of what's shaped the current situation (inequitable outcomes).

Who is oppressed and how to act individually, institutionally and structurally.

Takeaway:

Politics play a very big role everywhere, as they lead and set the frame for things to happen and that change within the political system is hard.

A single individual can make a difference.

Define

Define a problem to find a solution.

User's need:

Manuel needed help understanding the complex dynamics for Spain's dropout rates problem and not simply blaming the victim (students).

How might we help Manuel gain more perspective on Spain's dropout rates?

Ideate

Brainstorming: divergent thinking.

Documentary:

Multifaceted approach to the problem

Focus on individuals

Use specific problems

Start small to gain perspective

Prototype

Storyboard for a short video:

1. Facts and statistics - bigger picture.

2. Students cases - real struggles.
   a. Undiagnosed educational disabilities
   b. Poverty
   c. Pygmalion effect: self fulfilling prophecies

3. Ideas to implement in class - teacher plays a key role.

Test

Just prototype for now!

Testing on focus groups - has a clear idea been established?.

Reflect:

For me this project has been

motivating, important and overall fun.

Discussion

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Thank you for listening!