

Quick Start Guide

Here are some ideas for quick ways to gather last minute information, or if you're struggling for new ideas and perspectives. You can do these activities from your smart phone or computer when you have a free minute during your day.

First, break your design challenge into a few different keywords. For instance, if your design challenge is:

“How might we foster differentiation and personalized learning by thinking about the whole child?”

Your keywords might be: Differentiation, Personalized Learning, and “Whole Child” Learning.

Twitter Search

Pop your keywords into a Twitter search. Send a quick tweet to the first 10 folks you find on Twitter, read through their Twitter feed to see if there's anything of interest, and ask them to share a helpful resource with you. Perhaps it's their favorite website on the topic, a tool that they find useful, or a white paper from a leading thinker on the topic. You can also pose one of your research questions to them directly.

Friends & Family

Pick someone from your contacts who is not an educator, and send them a text or email asking them what they think of your keywords. Since they are not educators you may have to provide some context, but tell them that you're wondering if they have any thoughts or insight on the topic. Tapping into their non-education knowledge may broaden your perspective on the topic.

Video Search

Watch a video! Enter your keywords into a YouTube search. You may have to sift through some irrelevant content, but you may also find a gem that really gets you thinking. You might find a classroom example, or an interview with a key player in the field you are exploring. Or even something sarcastic that makes you laugh. Either way, it's a few minutes that helps to shift your perspective about your design challenge.

