

As usual, Mrs. Schweitzer, Mr. Nadal, and local artist and cartoonist Gary Larsen spent their weekend discussing technology and the engineering design process. On the next page, for each person, explain if you agree or disagree with their ideas.



The most important thing to remember about the design process is that you keep whatever you are building a secret. Oh, and make sure to never look at anybody else's design. If you look at other people's design it you will get too many ideas in your head at one time and you might change your original plan. You should also remember that your first plan is almost always your best one. So once you design something, just leave it like it is and never change anything.



I don't think the design process is that important. The way we engineer things isn't much different now than 100 years ago. I bet if you went back in time to your great great great grandmother's house, the technology would be about the same, so I don't think the engineering design process works or is that important to our lives.



Most things don't turn out right the first time. Or the first 100 times. It is the same way when an engineer designs a new technology. They build it over and over again, get ideas from other people, and revise their plans. That is why technology changes: computers get smaller and smaller and smaller and faster and faster and faster. First you walk to the river to get water, then to a well, then use a faucet, then the faucet is in your house and you can even choose the temperature. The design process is like a cycle where you try things, see what works and what doesn't, and then try again.

