

My role as the teacher in the STEM classroom changes from a presenter to a facilitator. Students will be tasked with real world problems and have to work cooperatively to solve them as a team using a design process. Teachers should use questioning techniques to help guide students as challenges arise. After a productive struggle students become stronger and rely on patterns and sequences that they have learned through perseverance. A true STEM student should keep them in their tool bag to be able to apply it in different situations or even another class.

The environment changes in a STEM classroom as the teacher becomes another resource. When students are engaged in their learning and are able to explore their interests, they are more likely to put forth the effort using a design process to drive exploration of their own interests. Their interactions will change as they work in groups cooperatively and look to problem solve on their own instead of waiting for information to be delivered to them. Each member of the group has a role to make the design process work and students hold each other accountable for their part of the task.