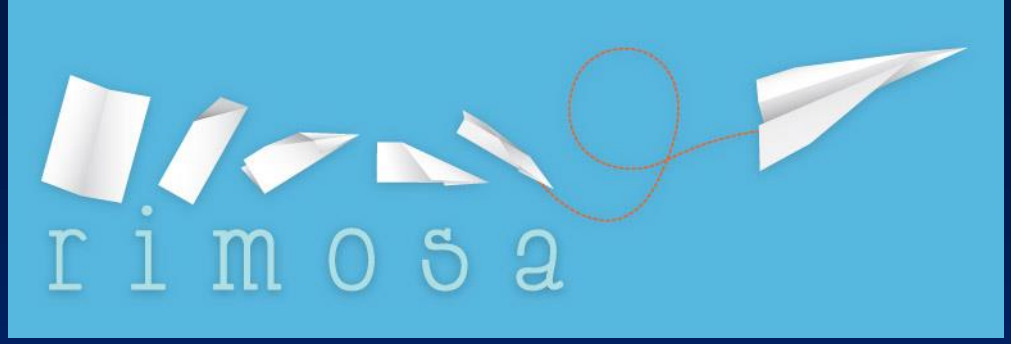
BROWN AB '94,
URI GSO PH.D. '99,
RISD P/T FACULTY


RIMOSA
RHODE ISLAND
MUSEUM OF
SCIENCE & ART
Mission: To Kindle Curiosity &
Encourage Experimentation



- As Little “Lecture” As Possible
- Open Ended
- Physically Interactive
- Involve Experimentation
- (Always Evaluated)

Program Development for Elementary and Middle Schoolers

Program Development for Elementary and Middle Schoolers

Step 1. Choose a topic

- Either something that interests you
- Or something that your audience (a school, cub scout program, science club) has requested.
- What topics have you done lately?

My topic today: Electricity

Challenge: how to present it in an art/science way

Step 2. Simplify

- What is the **1** (at most, **2**) thing/s people need to leave the program knowing?

For this outreach (entitled “electric dough”):

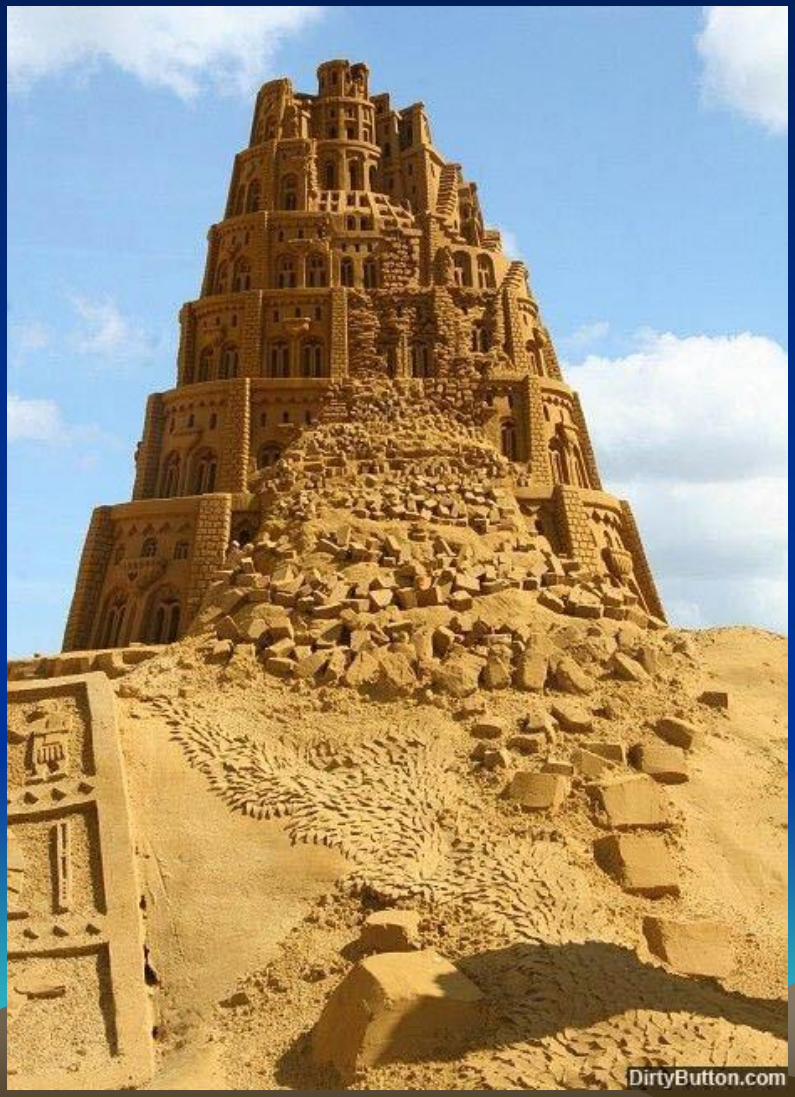
“You don’t have to be a wire to conduct ELECTRICITY.”

Step 3. Make it Open Ended

Why Open Ended?

- Requires active thought and engagement by participants (unlike “follow the recipe”)
- Participants make their own discoveries, leading to greater ownership of ideas.
- Participants more likely to want to continue on their own, to explore other avenues of inquiry

Or Somewhat Open Ended



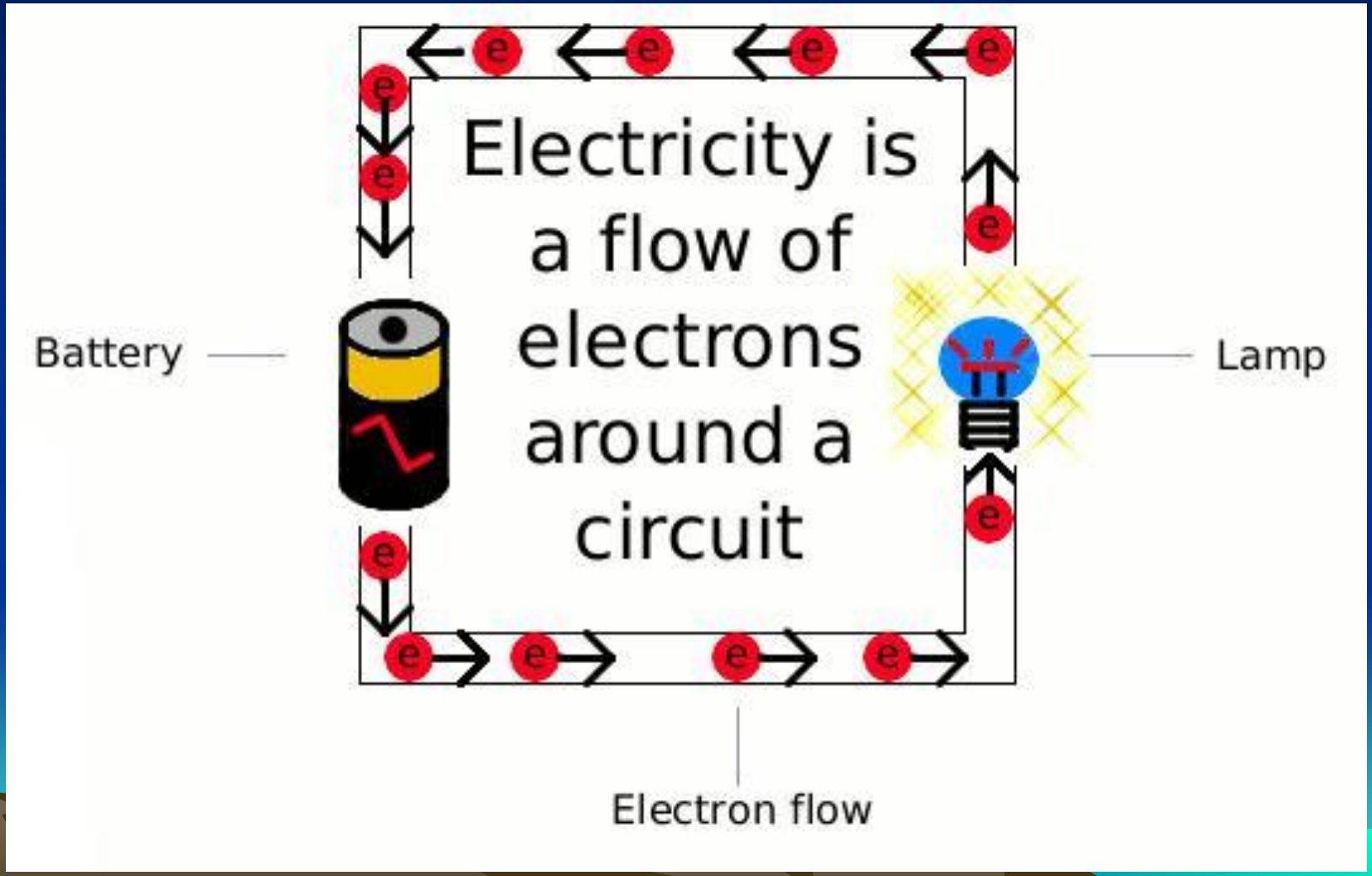
And Physically Interactive!

1. The more senses you engage, the more likely your message will be remembered
2. It's more fun, and allows for more discovery (see #1 about remembering)

Step 4. ensure lecturing is kept to a minimum!

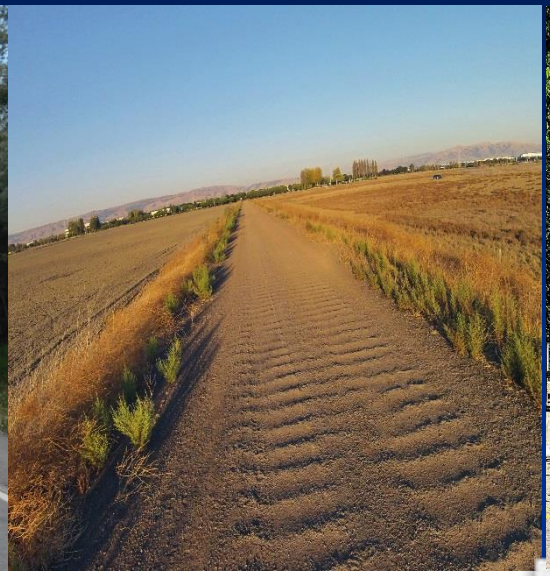
- How do you get your ONE point across without lecturing?
- Anything else that needs to be said before you start the activity?

Brief explanation (background)



I think of them as cars with lazy drivers – if they can take a shortcut, they will.

Some things are easy for e- to flow through, some not as much



Safety

- **YES!** You WILL get to play with electricity & dough. (in groups decided by your teacher)
- **NO!** The dough is not for eating.
- **YES** - these batteries are large
- **NO** -they are not particularly dangerous.

That said – **Be Responsible** – do not lick anything, stick anything in anyone's eye or otherwise misuse anything I give you.

(directions to follow)

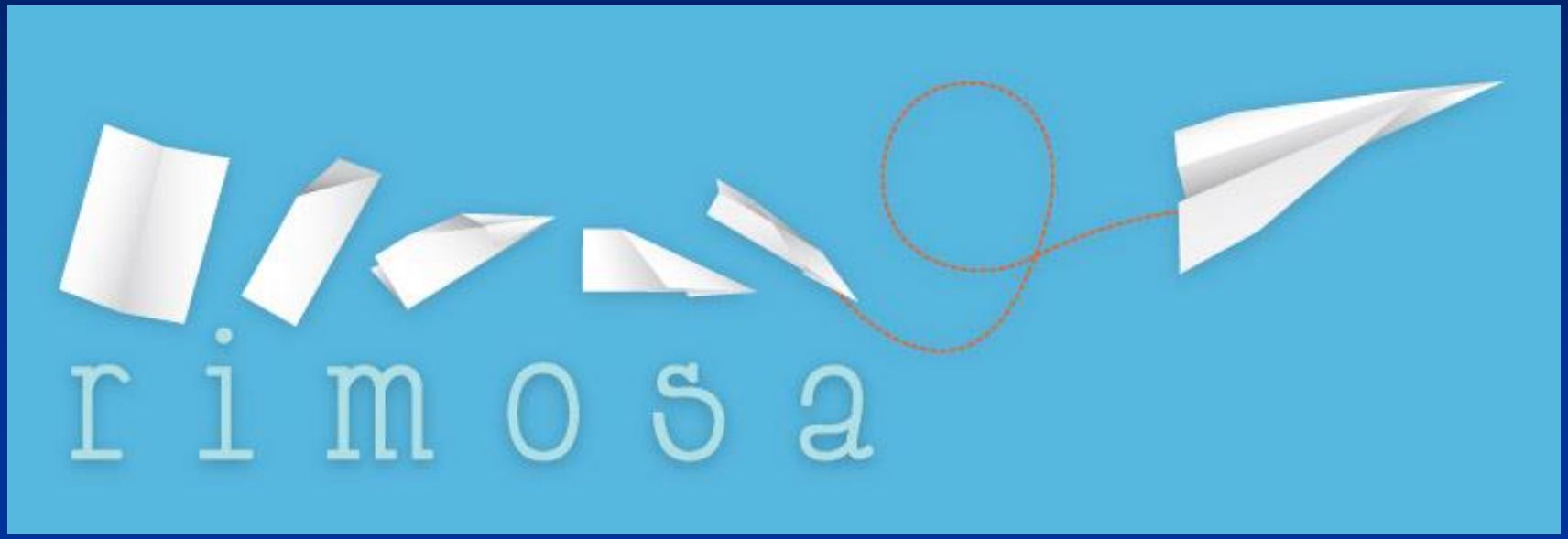
Open Ended Challenge:

- Your group will get LED lights, a power source with some wire attached and conductive dough.
- ***Please <u>don't</u> stick dough directly to battery***
- Can you make the lights glow?
- Can you do something creative with the dough and lights?

Evaluation!

- Anonymous, but with enough info to determine common denominators
  - (date, program, age of kids)
- No more than 10 questions (ideally 5)
- Leave empty space for comments
- Important to know if you are on the right track
- Important to show that you make a difference when asking for funding

Some background



WHO ARE WE?

Diverse Group of Rhode Islanders

- Artists, Scientists
- Formal educators
- Museum directors
- Business owners
- Musicians
- Craftsmen
- Environmentalists
- An accountant

What is a museum of science and art?

- For ages 11 to Adult

- Built to strengthen the traits artists and scientists share — ability to:

OBSERVE

BE CURIOUS

EXPERIMENT

COMMUNICATE


WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?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20

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Observe. Explore. Create.

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
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OUR MISSION

The Rhode Island Museum of Science and Art merges art and science creating innovative, interactive exhibits and programs that awaken curiosity, encourage experimentation, and improve understanding of the world around us.

SUPPORT US ON KICKSTARTER!