



**GAMES FOR CHANGE
STUDENT CHALLENGE**

FUTURE COMMUNITIES

1-PAGE SUMMARY

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ISSUE SUMMARY & PROMPT

Smart technologies like street lights, smartphones and wireless sensors give us feedback in the form of data about the people, places, and things that surround us. How can these things be used to improve our communities?

THEME GOAL

Make a game that shows how smart technology improve your community, school or neighborhood.

QUICK AND EASY ACTIVITY (10-15 minutes)

- Ask class to think about what cities in the future might be like. What might your city be like to live in?
- View 2-minute video: *Bright Inventors Program* <https://youtu.be/Z60IHAKrCzo>
- Use discussion questions below to prompt discussion

FULL SAMPLE LESSON (40-60 minutes)

OBJECTIVES:

- Introduce common smart technologies that are in your city (such as solar road signs and timed street lights).
- Explore a few different community issues and how they might be improved by smart technologies (such as street safety and having timed street lights).
- Generate list of smart technologies that could be turned into a game experience.

MATERIALS:

- Institute of the Future's [Map of the Automated World](#)

ACTIVITIES:

- (10 mins) Group Brainstorm: Introduce today's theme smart technologies. Invite students to suggest tools in their community that can be considered "smart technologies". Write a list on a whiteboard for all to view.
- (5 mins) Demo Smart Tech Map: Show class the Institute of the Future's [Map of the Automated World](#) and invite students to suggest variables to plug in and view results as a group.
- (15 mins) Explore Map: In pairs, have students explore map and prepare a list of 3 smart technology concepts that could be turned into game ideas.
- (15 mins) Document Ideas: In pairs, have students document a) the smart technology being used, 2) how they would make the activity into a game.

- (15 mins) Present Ideas: As a class, show and tell concepts, having each group present their ideas to the group and wrap up.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Imagine all the places in your city where smart technology is available. How and where can we collect data about how that city operates?
2. What technology exists in your community that could be used for positive change? Where are there resources that could be used?
3. How could we use that information to enhance things? What data would we need? Who would benefit?
4. What would you want to have on your phone to make your neighborhoods better?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Green Tech Media - Search articles that provide examples of future cities and related initiatives that illustrate how technology may be used in the future, as well as how it is being used right now. <https://www.greentechmedia.com>

Future Communities - A large collection of future technology that includes current news stories, community resources, and a glossary of important basics for anyone interested in the field.
<http://www.futurecommunities.net/>

Institute for the Future - Research, programs, initiatives, and tools that help to explain the reality and possibilities of future cities and provide foresight as the world engages with constantly evolving technologies.
<http://www.iftf.org>