3D Speculative Design Project
"Social Dreaming and Solution Building"

This assignment is designed to get you thinking about deep solutions to problems specific to Africans in the diaspora using Afrofuturist principles and Maker Literacies.

Over the first five weeks of the semester we have defined and identified the various overlapping principles of Afrofuturism as a movement:

> **<u>Afrofuturism:</u>**
> An ***intellectual movement*** in which artists, filmmakers, writers, scholars, musicians, entrepreneurs, and activists around the world explore ideas about the future of Africans in the diaspora.
>
> It is a reexamination of the past, as well as a critique of the present, that is ***forward-looking*** and ***generative***.
>
> It is a ***mindset*** and ***critical perspective*** that usually contains aspects of mysticism or spirituality.

We've also discussed the importance of **NARRATIVE** as a central medium for individual identity formation and group cohesion.

When we pull these concepts together, we have the beginnings of tools necessary for thinking through problems. In particular, we will use a mode of thinking called ***Speculative Design***. The object is to think deeply about root causes of problems and design material solutions using the principles of Afrofuturism and narrative.

Execution:
1) In and outside of class, you will watch the news, listen to the radio, read and talk with others about Africans in the diaspora. Your goal is to identify problems and issues of concern that disproportionately impact these populations in some negative way. Then you will begin thinking about root causes for these problems and listing potential solutions. Eventually, you will decide upon one problem to focus and then design a solution to that problem that helps to solve it at a ***root*** level--that is to say, your solution should not merely treat the symptoms of the problem or seek to cover it up, it should be about addressing *root problems*.
2) Once you have decided on a problem and potential solution, I want you to spend significant time ***drafting and sketching*** a design a prototype in words and images in your journals. Once you have a good design worked out in text and image, you will use the online 3D design software Tinkercad to make a digital copy of your prototype for 3D printing.
3) Once you have a successful 3D printed prototype of your design solution, you will write a carefully drafted abstract of your design explaining what it is, how it works, and the ways

that it contributes to solving a problem using an Afrofuturist aesthetic. Your Abstract will be between 300-310 words, exactly.

4) **You will turn in your prototype and abstract (as well as upload the .stl file into a designated Dropbox folder I'll provide the link for) in class on Tuesday, November 11.**

This assignment is worth 25% of your final grade.