#### Science Process Skills

# The Engineering Framework

## Define

# Optimize

#### Develop Solutions

## Define

- What is the problem?
- Identify what you must consider in order to find a solution, what are your constraints?

 Constraints- limitations to your designed solution (i.e. size, time, \$)

#### Let's Define a Problem...

- There is a severe drought in the leading agricultural part of the state.
- It's the first day of football season and the parking lot of NC State's Carter-Finley Stadium is going to be under construction.
- This classroom must be arranged so that all the desks face the sink and the teacher desk is in the center

## Develop Solutions

- Work within constraints
- Combine possible solutions to create new ones
- Look back at previous attempts or the solutions to similar problems

#### Let's Develop a Solution...

 We need to carry heavy sandbags across a beach with deep loosely packed sand

 We need to pack a carry-on sized suitcase with everything needed for a month long trip

 Kids at an elementary school are not eating their vegetables



- Test solutions and ask questions like...
  - Is this the most efficient solution?
  - Is this is least expensive solution?
  - Is this the solution that is best for the user/consumer?
  - Is this is solution that is most environmentally friendly?

## Let's Optimize...

 Road work needed to be done, currently workers are working from 1pm until 7pm

 While cooking dinner you have chicken that must go in the oven for 45 minutes, corn that must be steamed for 8 minutes and a dessert that must be in the freezer for 20 minutes

#### Observation vs. Inference

 Observation- what you see, no interpretation just a statement of what is in front of you

 There is a puppy putting one paw on a soccer ball

 Inference- your assumptions or conclusion based on observations

 The puppy is playing with the soccer ball



# Qualitative vs. quantative

Qualitative- describes a *quality* of something
 – Color, texture, size, shape, etc.

 Quantative- deals with *quantity* – Ounces, liters, inches, etc.

# Is it qualitative or quantitative?

- 8 lbs.
- Rough
- After reaction the mixture was solid
- After reaction the mixture was 3 oz lighter

#### Precision vs. accuracy

 Precision- How closely together is data grouped? How close is this data point to other data points?

Accuracy- How close is data to the best solution?

# Is it precise?



#### Is it accurate?

