The Mechanical Metaphor:
a creative Engineering & Government project

You’ve shown how awesome you are at creating complex machines that can achieve simple tasks. You’ve shown that you can think about planning as part of the design process. You’ve also shown that you can re-imagine one of the simplest, most exalted tools in the history of humanity: the coffee cup.

Now is your chance to show how creative you can be.

For this project, think about any aspect of government which we have studied so far and create a machine that demonstrates it. The machine does not have to be a Rube Goldberg device! It can be a simple machine that illustrates one of the core principles we’ve learned. The goal is for you to use your engineering and design skills to create an unusual yet accurate metaphor for some aspect of government.

Requirements:

- the device must be portable, since you’ll have to present it to the class
- it must be safe, since you’ll have to demonstrate it in class
- it must be three-dimensional
- it must use movement in some form
- it must accurately and clearly represent the principle you’re trying to demonstrate
- you must explain how you used the major steps in the design process
- you must give a clear, engaging, persuasive description of how the machine works and what it represents

Due date: Wednesday, Sep. 17.

You may work with one partner on this project.