

ESD.864
Problem Set #1
Due Session 7

Visit to the Museum of Science Making Models Exhibit

For this problem set, you will need to visit the Boston Museum of Science, which is located about a 15 minute walk from MIT. See http://www.mos.org/visitor_info/maps_and_directions for directions.

The Making Models exhibit (http://www.mos.org/exhibits_shows/current_exhibits&d=104) is located in the blue wing on Level 2.

After going through the exhibit, respond to the following questions:

1. Critique the goals of the exhibit. What does the exhibit aim to teach visitors? If you were designing a similar exhibit about understanding models, would you choose similar educational objectives? Why or why not? What's missing in the exhibit, if anything?
2. Choose one particular component (e.g. wave tank, pyramids, fish farming....) to answer the following questions:
 - a. Describe the component. What does it communicate to visitors about models?
 - b. Is the component effective at fulfilling the exhibit's goals? Why or why not? (You might draw from the evaluation to answer this question if information is available on your chosen exhibit).
3. Did the exhibit affect your understanding of models? Do you think your reaction was similar or different from an average museum visitor? Why/why not?
4. Suggest an additional component focused on the use of models in decision-making. Briefly summarize the goals of this component, and describe how you would implement it in a museum setting.

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