Queensland Clergy Conference 2018
Reimagine Faith Formation for the 21st Century
Session 4. Lifelong & Lifewide

Life Stage Faith Formation

Intergenerational

- Children
- Teens / Youth
- Young Adults
- Midlife Adults
- Mature Adults
- Older Adults

Family
21st Century Learning

1. Blended Learning
2. Micro-Learning
3. Immersive Learning Environments
4. Multiple Ways of Learning
5. Multisensory Learning
6. Project-Based Learning
7. Collaborative Learning
8. Visual Learning
9. Practice-Oriented Learning
10. Storytelling
Virtual Learning Academy

VLACS provides full time and part time online virtual learning opportunities for both Middle & High School students. Our new online Adult Education program will be available in 2016.

Choose Your Path

Middle School & High School
VLACS is an online virtual public middle and high school offering students the opportunity to learn at their own pace, full or part time.

Adult Education
Learn something for fun, develop new tech skills, learn a second language, and more at VLACS Adult Ed. Now accepting enrollment!

Summit Schools

Summit’s PERSONALIZED SCHOOLS

A personalized school is designed to meet the needs of each & every individual student.

At Summit, we focus on four key elements of college and career readiness, and empower students to drive their learning and own their success.
Maturing in Faith: Toward What Ends Are We Working

Focus on Maturing in Faith: Toward What Ends Are We Working

What Do We Need to Do at Each Stage of Life to Promote Faith Maturing
Maturing in Faith

- Focusing on the essential characteristics of lifelong growth in Christian faith and discipleship
- Incorporating knowing and believing, relating and belonging, practicing and living.
- Addressing each characteristic in developmentally-appropriate ways at each stage of life

Characteristics

1. Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
2. Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
3. Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
4. Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith (Trinity, Jesus, creed, morality and ethics) and integrating its meaning into ones life
5. Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines
Characteristics

6. Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values
7. Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God’s creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.
8. Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year
9. Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community
10. Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one’s gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

Developing a Faith Formation Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faith Maturing Characteristic</th>
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<th>Youth</th>
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Two Ways to Approach Personalizing Faith Formation

**Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People**
- Develop pathways of faith maturing
- Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- Upload playlists to a digital platform

**Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings**
- Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and the life stage needs of people
  - *Getting Started ---- Growing ---- Going Deeper*
- Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
- Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs
Pathways of Faith Growth

A Pathways Model

• A Pathway is a process for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.

• A Pathway is life-centered, reaching into every area of a person’s life.

• A Pathway is holistic incorporating the whole person: head, heart, and hands.

• A Pathway focuses on faith maturing.
Knowing God:

1. I feel loved and valued by God.
2. I feel important and needed.
3. I see myself as important to God.
4. I feel important to others.

Loving God:

1. I feel connected to God.
2. I feel safe and protected by God.
3. I feel understood by God.
4. I feel supported by God.

Serving God:

1. I feel called to serve God.
2. I feel motivated to serve God.
3. I feel equipped to serve God.
4. I feel effective in serving God.

Take the Next Step Today

Visit www.ourchurchlive.com or The Connector Point in the Narthex to view updated listings of classes and service opportunities and to register.
Targeting the Needs of Each Group

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life

Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth

- PATHWAY
  - Vibrant
  - Occasional
  - Uninvolved

- PLAYLIST
  - Variety of Experiences & Activities
  - Variety of Experiences & Activities
  - Variety of Experiences & Activities
Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth

Characteristic
- Inquiring
- Getting Started
- Growing
- Going Deeper

Playlist of Experiences & Activities

Designing a Pathways Model

1. Identify a target audience(s)
2. Describe their life stage & religious-spiritual characteristics.
3. Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model
   • Sacraments/milestones
   • RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
   • Gathered faith formation programming & meetings
   • Small groups: affinity groups, interest groups, Bible study groups
   • On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey
4. Develop the characteristics of faith growth for the Pathways
5. Develop a “discernment continuum” that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth
Designing Steps 1 & 2
Target Audience & Description

- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Interviews
- Research Reviews

**Sample Themes – Mature Adults**

1. Dealing with retirement
2. Making life plans, finances, health
3. Becoming a grandparent
4. Making a difference in the community and world
5. Incorporating family changes and transitions
6. New ways of living and relating as a married couple
7. Caring for aging parents
8. Taking time to read the Bible and learn more about my faith
9. Growing spiritually and exploring spirituality for the 2nd half of life
10. Connecting with people my age; talking about things that matter to us
11. Dealing with loss

Designing Step 3 - How & Where

Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model

1. Sacraments/milestones: Marriage, Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, beginning church faith formation, etc.
2. RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
3. Gathered faith formation events and programming
4. Parenting meetings
5. Small groups: affinity groups, interest groups, Bible study groups,
6. On-ramps where people in your church might start the discipleship journey
Designing Step 4 – Characteristics

Develop the characteristics of faith growth you want to use in your Pathways model. For example:

1. Option 1. Use characteristics of faith growth specific to the life stage (such as family faith practices) or the content of the event (such as preparing for confirmation)
2. Option 2. Use characteristics of maturing faith

Key Characteristics of Maturing Faith

1. Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
2. Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
3. Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
4. Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith and integrating its meaning into one's life
5. Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines
6. Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values
7. Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.
8. Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year
9. Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community
10. Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world
Adult Faith Growth Pathway

We believe that growth in our relationship with God and in following Jesus (discipleship) is a lifelong process. We are constantly trying to grow deeper in our relationship with God and in living the Christian way of life each day. Our church is committed to helping you grow wherever you may be in your faith journey. We are committed to helping you live the Christian way of life everyday.

To help you discover areas for growth and to help us serve you better, please take a few minutes to complete the Adult Faith Growth Pathway. It will help you identify strengths and areas of growth in your own life. Use these statements to assess where you are honestly and prayerfully. Rate “How true each statement is for you” using the rating scale: 1 = Rarely true of me, 2 = Sometimes true of me, 3 = Occasionally true of me, 4 = Almost always true of me, 5 = Always true of me.

1. I am growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

2. My faith shapes how I think and act each and every day.

3. I make the Christian faith a way of life by integrating my beliefs into the conversation, decisions, and actions of daily life.

4. I am aware of God present and active in my own life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

5. I have a real sense that God is guiding me.

6. I seek spiritual growth by actively pursuing questions of faith, learning what it means to believe in God, and what it's like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

7. I devote time to reading and studying the Bible.

8. I use the Bible to discover how I should think and act.

9. I pray to God and take quiet time to reflect and listen to God.

10. I am growing spiritually through spiritual practices such as contemplation, lectio divina, praying scriptures, daily examination (reflection), and meditation.

11. I can articulate the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith.

12. I am growing in my understanding of the Christian faith—beliefs, traditions, and practices.

13. I exercise moral responsibility by applying Christian ethics, virtues, and values to making moral decisions.

14. My faith helps me know right from wrong.

15. I live a life of service by caring for others and reaching out those in need.

16. I am involved in ways to promote social justice and address injustice in the world.

17. I am involved in actions to care for creation.

18. I share the Good News of Jesus through my words and actions.

19. I participate actively and regularly in the worship life of the church community.

20. I participate in the life, ministries, and leadership of the church community.

Ways I Can Grow
- Areas Where I Need to “Get Started” (look at the numbers 1 and 2)
- Areas Where I Need to “Grow” (look at the numbers 2 and 3)
- Areas Where I Want to “Go Deeper” (look at the numbers 4 and 5)

Designing Step 5 – Discernment

Develop a ‘discernment continuum’ that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth

Inquiring--Getting Started--Making Progress--Going Deeper

“How true each statement is for you?”

1 = Rarely true of me

2 = Sometimes true of me,

3 = Occasionally true of me

4 = Almost always true of me

5 = Always true of me.
Approach #2.
Personalize the Offerings

Getting Started
- Participate in the “Welcome to the Bible” program at church
- Watch the video programs on how to read the Bible
- Watch the video program with an overview of the Old Testament and New Testament
- Use the Guide to select a Study Bible and find the Bible online
- Participate in the 30-Day Bible Experience: Reading one Gospel (Matthew, Mark, or Luke)

Growing
- Develop a daily plan for reading the Bible
- Participate in the lectio divina reflection group after Sunday worship
- Learn how to pray with the Bible
- Join a Bible study group (church, home, coffee shop, online)

Going Deeper
- Read the Bible in 365 days
- Develop a personal Bible study plan
- Take an online course: Hebrew Scriptures, Gospels, Letters of Paul
- Study and pray the Psalms as a spiritual practice
**Personalize the Offerings**  
*Playlist: Bible for Families with Children*

### Getting Started
- Participate in the Bible workshop for parents that is offered twice a year
- Watch the “Reading the Bible with Children” video and/or listen to the podcast on website
- Begin the practice of a weekly Bible story reading and/or video viewing
- Use the online Guide to select and purchase a recommended children’s Bible, and an adult study Bible for parents
- Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program

### Growing
- Continue the weekly Bible story or video practice
- Practice the FAITHS each day: Share the highs and lows of the day every night; read a key Bible verse or story every night; talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows; pray for one another’s highs and lows aloud every night; bless one another before turning out the lights of the day.
- Participate in the family scripture reflection after Sunday worship each week
- Learn how to pray with the Bible by watching the video online and using the prayer activities online
- Participate in the church wide “30-Day Bible Experience” of reading one gospel at home.
- Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program

### Going Deeper
- Continue the FAITHS daily practice
- Join an adult Bible study group offered by the church
- Engage the whole family in a 365 day “read the whole Bible” experience using the resources on the family website
- Develop a personal Bible study plan using the resources on the family website
- Participate in the family scripture reflection after Sunday worship each week
- Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program

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### Playlists for Faith Formation

- **Playlist for Learning**
Faith Formation Playlists

A faith formation playlist is a curated group of digital (online, video, audio, print) and gathered (church, home, small groups, etc.) faith forming experiences and resources that are tailored to the specific faith growth needs of people around a particular characteristic of faith maturing or theme/topic.

Playlists are developed for each “stage” on the discernment continuum, such as Inquiring, Getting Started, Growing, Going Deeper.

Each playlist provides a variety of ways for people to learn and grow in faith.

Curating Playlists

- Books
- Audio / Podcasts
- Video and movies
- Apps and digital programming
- Website content and activities
- Courses, programs, workshops at church and online
- Church life, ministries, and events
- Small groups at church, home, community settings
- Art, drama, music
- Service and action projects, mission trips
- Retreats
- Field trips
- Mentoring
Faith Formation Playlists

**Variety of Environments**: Self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.

**Variety of Ways to Learn**

Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach to develop the faith of families with young children…

1. **Getting Started Families** (little faith experience)
2. **Growing Families** (somewhat connected to faith community)
3. **Going Deeper Families** (involved and practicing)

- How would you engage the parents?
- How would you engage the children and whole family?
Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for first communion…

1. Getting Started Children (little to no faith forming experiences)
2. Growing Children (some faith forming experiences)
3. Going Deeper Children (involved and practicing)

• What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of children?
• What would parent and family faith formation look like?

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Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for confirmation…

1. Getting Started Adolescents (little to no faith forming experiences since childhood)
2. Growing Adolescents (some faith forming experiences in childhood)
3. Going Deeper Adolescents (involved and practicing)

• What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of adolescents?
• What would parent and family faith formation look like?
KEF is a bold new model of Jewish learning. Rather than studying about Judaism, prayer, celebration and Jewish culture, or reading about Jewish literature, the Bible and what makes a Jewish community, participants in KEF will experience it all and be a part of building their own Jewish community.

The goals of the KEF program are:

• to learn about the Jewish tradition through family experiences with prayer, celebration and tikkun olam;
• to strengthen the family’s connections to one another, to the Jewish tradition, and to the congregation as a whole, and
• to build a community of learners at Temple Emanuel.

Program Requirements

Student and at least one adult family member shall participate in the following activities in the course of a year:

• 4-6 K’vutzah activities, including orientations, Shabbat dinners, class-age based programs, talk-back discussions and the concluding Torah activities;
• 10-12 Shabbat services;
• 6 holiday celebrations or commemorations held at Temple Emanuel; and
• 3-4 cultural programs (in the congregation or around the city).

In addition, each family will be responsible to:

• read books from a selected reading list (the types and number of books would vary with the students’ age);
• devote 12-18 hours doing work related to tikkun olam (repairing the world);
• do a Torah project (Each year there will be a theme for these Torah projects, e.g., Genesis, Exodus, mitzvot in the Torah, the prophets, and the Writings).

What the program will provide:

• a Rosh K’vutzah for each K’vutzah (the rabbis, educators and coordinators will serve as rosh K’vutzot); who will meet with each family individually at least twice and with the entire K’vutzah several times during the year;
• orientations to worship services and holidays;
• a Torah-related program for children attending the New Emanuel Minyan (during the time the adults participate in Torah reading and text study);
• K’vutzah-based activities;
• book discussion groups; and
• a Torah project.
Extend the Event

Church or School Event or Program

At Home & Daily Life

Sunday Worship

• Learning
• Praying
• Reading the Bible: Daily Readings
• Living
Tri-Saints Lutheran
Hardy, NE

One Event/ Program, Multiple Formats

- Gathered
- Small Group
- Independent
- Online

- Digital Content to Extend & Provide New Ways to Experience

- Interaction
- Connection
- Communication
- Demonstration

Event/ Program

Multiple Formats

Website

Social Media
Build on an Event/Experience

**Preparing**
- What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

**Experiencing**
- How will you design the event?
- How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

**Living**
- How will you sustain/extend the event?
- What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?

Flip the Model

@ Home / Daily Life
Exploring the Content - print, audio, video, activities

@ The Program
Applying the Content: Create – Practice - Perform - Participate
Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint reflections, multiple-choice questions and online small group discussions. Each small group has their own online space to discuss faith topics, ask questions, and pray for one another. By having both in person classes and an online study we hope to help families learn more about their faith while respecting the many demands for their time.
Christian Initiation & New Member Formation

Intro to The Basics of Christianity
by Pastor Bill Crabtree of Silverdale Lutheran Church
Flip the Model

Flip Christian Initiation
Integrate Online and Gathered

The Slate Project is a new kind of Christian community that gathers both on-line and face-to-face in Baltimore, Maryland.

We are a movement to change the church from inside out.

We are committed to following the way of Jesus together, into our local and digital neighborhoods and discerning in community how to be the church in the 21st century.

Connect with The Slate Project on-line and face-to-face:

- **Mondays**
  - What: **#BreakingBread** (Dinner Church)
  - Where: 4E University Plkwry Bmore, MD 212
  - When: 6 PM EST

- **Wednesday**
  - What: **#SlateReads** (Live Tweet Chat - Book Discussion)
  - Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #SlateReads
  - When: 8 PM EST

- **Thursdays**
  - What: **#SlateSpeaks** (Live Tweet Chat - new topic each week)
  - Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeaks
  - When: 9 PM EST

**#BreakingBread**

Our weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a “Dinner Liturgy” we call #BreakingBread.

Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our “borrowed space” graciously offered to us by the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.

**#SlateReads**

#SlateReads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversation is informed by these readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!
Integrate Online and Gathered

God on Tap Blog

Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!

Join us for God on Tap tomorrow night, July 26th at 6pm at Horse & Man Brewing Company in Arvada. Our topic: creativity.

When the universe seems to be sending you signals, be ready to pay attention.

Lately, I’ve been hearing a lot about creativity—how it works, what fuels it, what inspires it, and what promotes it.

From a podcast reminding its listeners of the importance of boredom for creativity, to reading authors like Stephen King and Anne Lamott describe their writing process, to Elizabeth Gilbert’s TED Talk about your elusive creative genius, to a conversation just this past week with my friend like John from a book about how he created great projects like his Thirty, Thirty or Less videos. (He describes his creative process as something akin to throwing spaghetti against a wall and seeing what happens.)

Creativity is a common thing. We create all kinds of art, theatre, music, school lessons plans, woodwork, gardens, beer, designing, writing, business plans, you name it. We may not have created ourselves, and yet we do create and mold and shape our lives as we tend to our relationships, work, and outings.
# Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Daily &amp; Home</th>
<th>Online</th>
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| • Ash Wednesday  
  • Lenten Sunday liturgies  
  • Stations of the Cross  
  • Lenten prayer  
  • Lenten retreat  
  • Lenten service  
  • Lenten soup suppers | • Fasting  
  • Praying  
  • Service/Almsgiving  
  • Lectionary reflection  
  • Family Lenten activities | • Lenten learning resources  
  • Lenten calendar  
  • Daily Lenten prayer  
  • Weekly table prayer  
  • Video resources  
  • Online retreat experience |

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# Advent or Lent Online “Curriculum”

![Welcome to Advent Wreath: The Advent Wreath helps us contemplate the meaning of the season and prepare our hearts for Christ's birth.](image)

**Advent Activities**
- **Advent Wreath**: Traditionally, Advent wreaths are composed of five candles, representing the five Sundays before Christmas. They symbolize the days of Advent, each candle representing a phase of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. The wreath is kept in a visible place in the home and is lit each Sunday during Advent.
- **Advent Calendar**: Each day, a simple or detailed calendar is used to help individuals count down the days until Christmas. Advent calendars often feature daily readings, quotes, or images related to the season of Advent.
- **Advent Reflections**: Daily reflections are included in the Advent wreath calendar, guiding individuals in their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

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![Welcome to Advent Family Advent Calendar (English & Spanish)](image)

**Family Advent Calendar**
- **English**: Designed for families, the Advent calendar provides daily activities and reflections to help prepare for Christmas.
- **Spanish**: A version in Spanish is also available, making the Advent experience accessible to a wider audience.

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![Welcome to Advent Children's Advent Calendar](image)

**Children's Advent Calendar**
- A special calendar designed for children, incorporating fun and educational activities that help them understand the meaning of Advent and prepare for Christmas.
Pastoral Care

START YOUR FREE WEBSITE

Get Started

Save Time with One Update
No more repeating the story over and over. Connect with all of your family and friends at once, giving you time to focus on what matters.

Webinar
Live Presentation
Upper Dublin Lutheran Church

Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!
Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you’re out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith joins us by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the UDL Lutheran Facebook page at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our Facebook event with a friend! - Keith

Program Description
The mall. Public parks. Friend’s houses. The lunch room. The physical spaces that were central to socialization, extracurricular learning, and identity formation for many of us have increasingly shifted to digital spaces. And there are implications for parents, teachers, ministry leaders and anyone else who works with young people. This workshop will explore digital media trends among kids and teens, the diversity of experiences when it comes to youth and social media, how adolescents are working out their identities through “networked publics,” and considerations for faith formation with a tech-connected generation.
Curating Faith Formation

What is Content Curation (Beth Kanter)

Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.

- The work involves sifting, sorting, arranging, and publishing information.
- A content curator picks the best content that is important and relevant to share with their community.
- It isn’t unlike what a museum curator does to produce an exhibition: They identify the theme, they provide the context, they decide which paintings to hang on the wall, how they should be annotated, and how they should be displayed for the public.
Curating Religious Content

- Research & Organize Resources
- Identify Potential Resources for Programming
- Select & Connect Resources to programming
- Evaluate Resources

Develop Trusted Sources

- Blogs
- Newsletters
- Websites
- Denominations
- Curated Websites
- Religious Organizations
- 6-8 “Expert” Resource People
## Develop a Research Checklist

1. **People**: teachers, mentors/guides, guest presenters  
2. **Community programs**: churches, agencies, organizations,  
3. **Educational institutions**: colleges, seminaries  
4. **Retreat and spiritual life centers, monasteries**  
5. **Denominational programs, events, websites**  
6. **Museums**  
7. **Books (with study guides) & E-books**  
8. **Apps**  
9. **Audio podcasts & audio learning programs**  
10. **Videos & video learning programs**  
11. **Online courses & online activities**  
12. **Television shows**  
13. **Organizational websites**  
14. **Resource center websites**

## Develop Evaluation Criteria

- Biblical content and interpretation  
- Theological content and emphasis  
- Developmental appropriateness  
- Ethnic-Cultural appropriateness  
- Inclusive of diversity  
- Respect for diverse ways of learning  
- Appearance and visual appeal  
- Ease-of-Use  
- Quality of Experience  
- **Applicable**: Able to be incorporated into daily and home life