



# Mel's Minions

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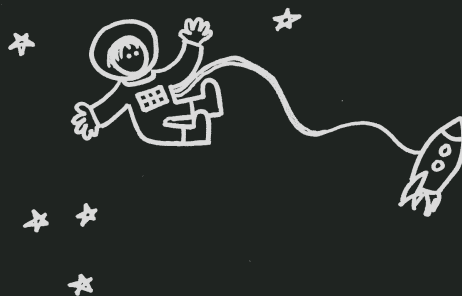
Investigating Normal Fall 2015

# Agenda!

(Not just for political radicals  
anymore)

1. Mel & All of Us
  2. Social Design
    - a. Battery Experiment  
(Vulnerability)
    - b. Room of Requirement(s)  
(Asking for Help)
    - c. Accessible Media  
(Accessibility)
  3. What Mel Taught Us
  4. Access for a few/Access for all
-

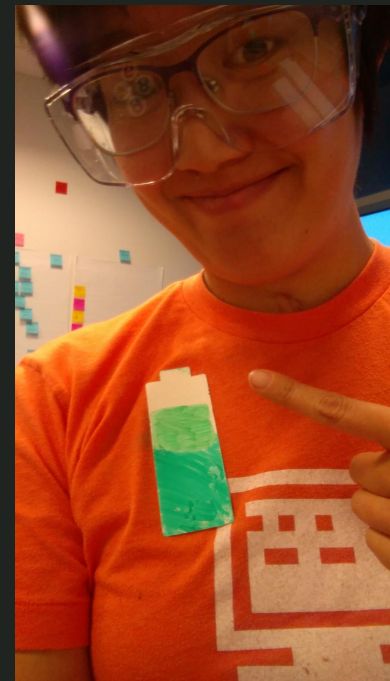
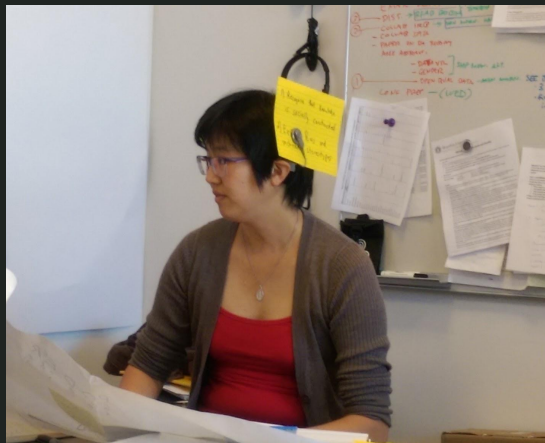
# Investigating Mel



1. Mel & All of Us
2. Social Design
3. What Mel Taught Us
4. Access for a few & all

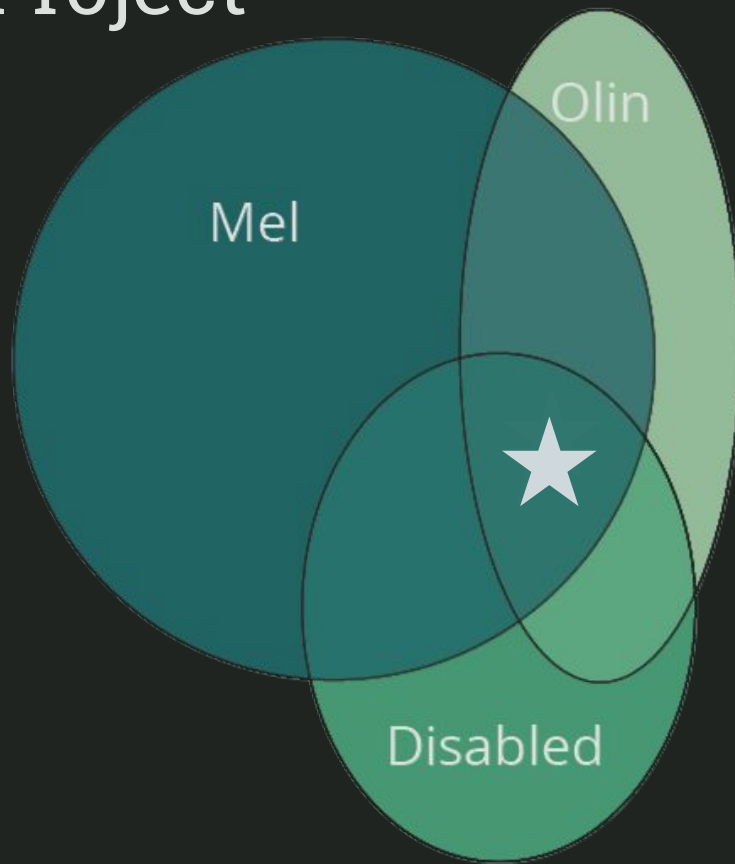
What we learned: Mel is fantastic and... complex.

- Olin alum & engineering education post-doc
- $d(\text{Mel})/dt \neq 0$
- "There's something I want now more than passing as hearing."



# Mel & Our Project

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1. **Mel & All of Us**
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# Mel & All of Us!

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Mel shouldn't have to carry the weight of adapting her body alone

We all need adaptations: our own wish to see her needs generalized

"I think it comes down to two questions, for Olin.

1) am I part of this community?

2) do you want me to be?"

# Emotional Core

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I am taught that I am broken.

I am taught that it's not okay, and that I should be ashamed.

So I feel I am pressured to hide who I am.

And this hurts me.

# Design for the Common Good

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1. Design experiments to shape a healthy community
2. Modules that expand beyond a one-semester project
3. Interventions based on our three key framings

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# Experiment Framing

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Vulnerability

Asking for Help

Accessibility

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Vulnerability



Asking for Help



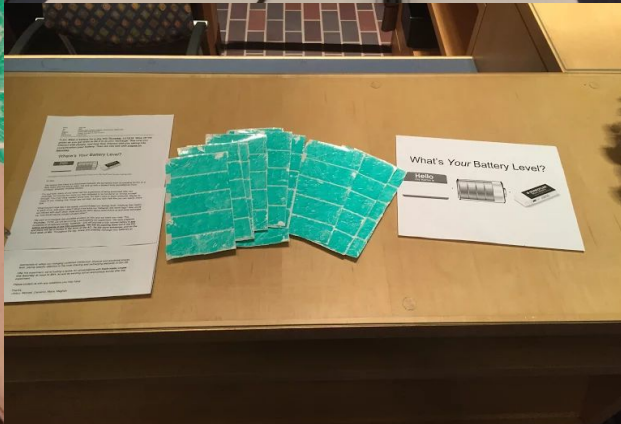
Accessibility



# Battery Experiment



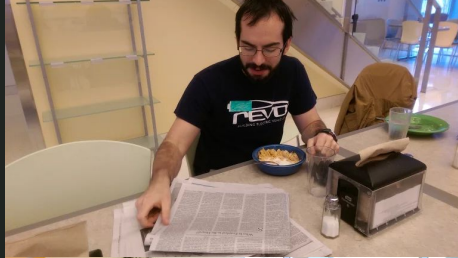
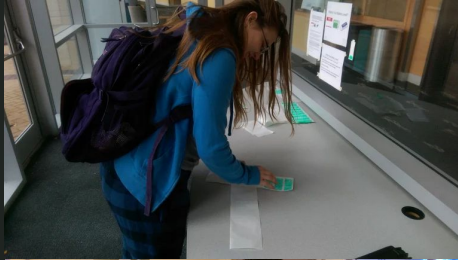
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# We got a lot of buy-in.



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# Some things weren't quite what they seemed...

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...but others totally were.



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# Empowering vulnerability

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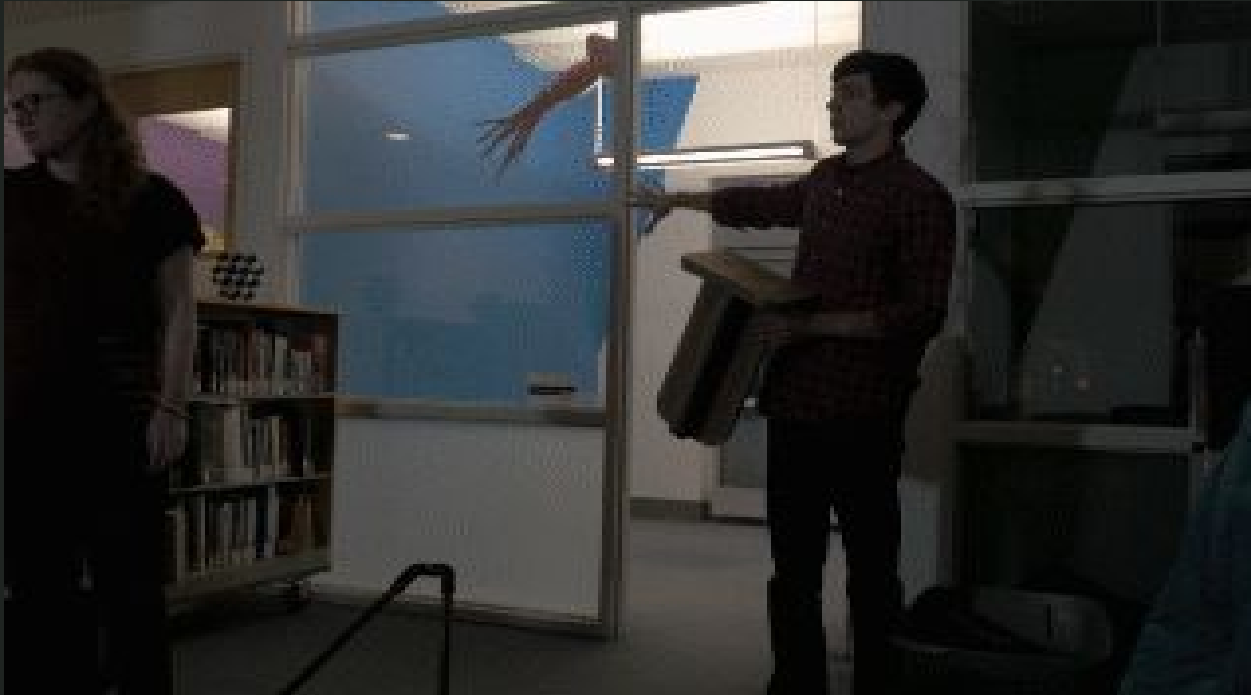
Keeping “battery day” a shared experience: repeat once a semester



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# Room of Requirement(s)

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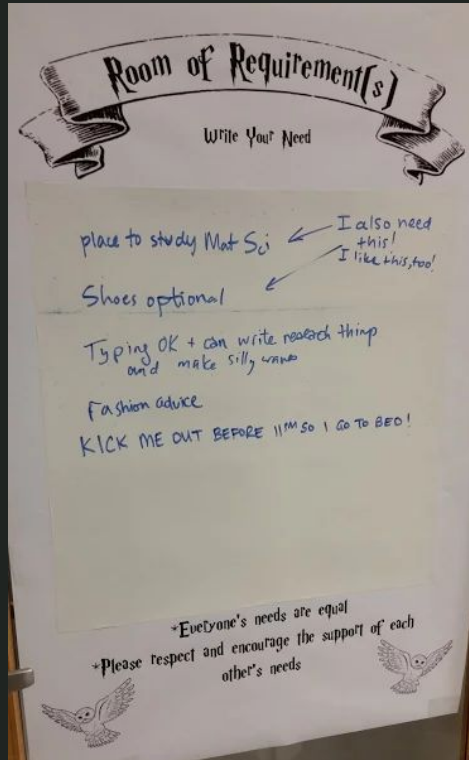


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# Room of Requirement(s)



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# The Magic of Asking for Help

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Hope for future use: more permanent space



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# Accessibility Workshop

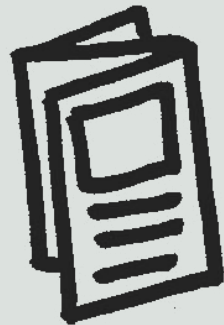


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# Accessible Media

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Now in pamphlet form!



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# Captioning



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The screenshot shows the YouTube Creator Studio interface for editing video captions. The left sidebar contains navigation options: CREATOR STUDIO, DASHBOARD, VIDEO MANAGER, Videos, Playlists, LIVE STREAMING, COMMUNITY, CHANNEL, ANALYTICS, and CREATE. The main area is titled 'Transcribe and set timings: English' and includes a search bar, keyboard shortcuts, and help links. The video player shows a scene with three people in a room with a whiteboard and sticky notes. The video title is 'Mel - how do you identify?'. The video player has a progress bar and a 'Pause video while typing' checkbox. The right panel shows a list of captions with their start and end times and the text. The captions are: '0:00.3 Mostly I identify as a Mel.', '0:03.3 Cool', '0:04.8 And here I also identify as a post-doc, as well as an alumna.', and '0:11.6 Also, Olin engineer, Electrical Computer Engineering. There is'. The bottom of the interface shows 'All changes saved in Drafts' and buttons for 'Exit' and 'Publish edits'.

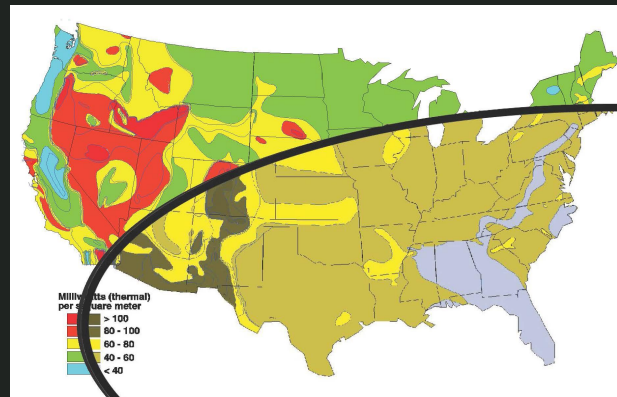
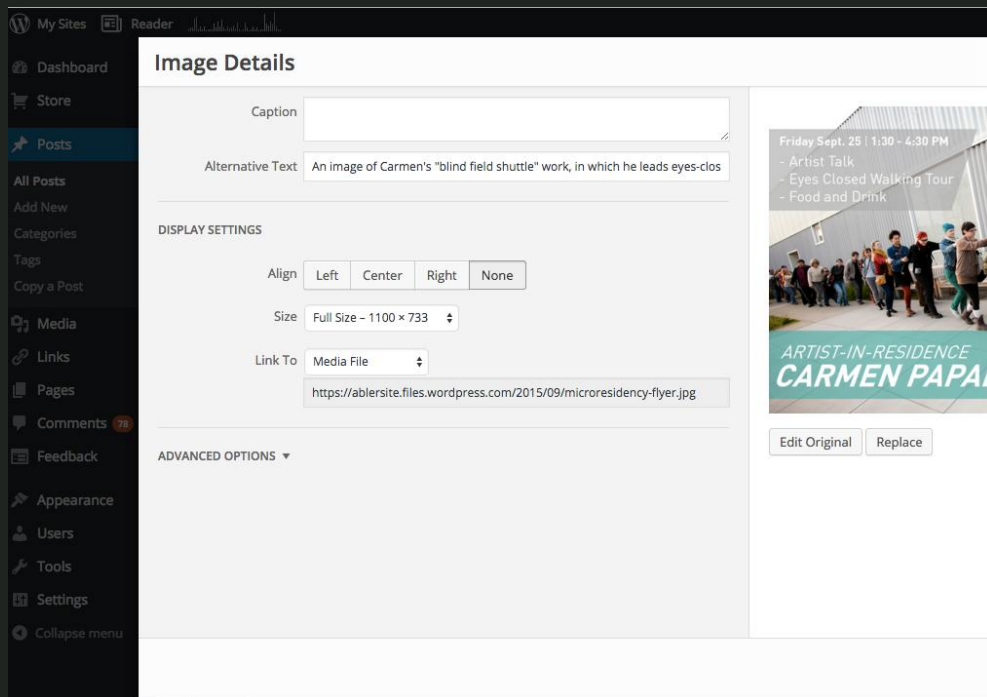




# Images: Alt-Text & Color blind



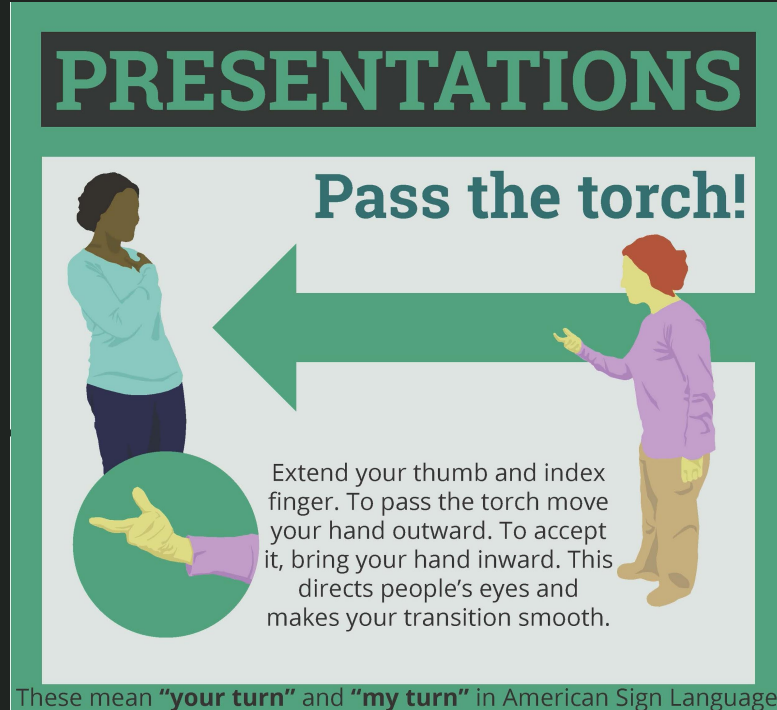
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# Presentation Gestures



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# Text: Sizing, Contrast, & Spacing



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**158 pt.** A

**72 pt.** POSTER

**36 pt.** IS NOT AN EYE EXAM

😊

**18 pt.** THE THING IS ALMOST NO ONE HAS EAGLE VISION  
**12 pt.** AND THIS IS GETTING PRETTY UNCOMFORTABLE ANYWAY RIGHT?  
**10 pt.** OHGGOONESTHISISRIDICULOUSHEEEEEELLLLLPPPPPP

DO EVERYONE A FAVOR AND MAKE THE TEXT ON YOUR POSTERS EASY TO READ

\* Succinct \* High Contrast \* Well-Spaced \* Guide The Eye \*

**Titles:** 158-72 pt (1.5 in-.7 in) **Section Titles:** 56-46 pt. (.54-.45 in)  
**Body Text:** 36-26 pt. (.34-.26 in)



# Accessing the community

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Distribution of pamphlets throughout  
Olin community & beyond

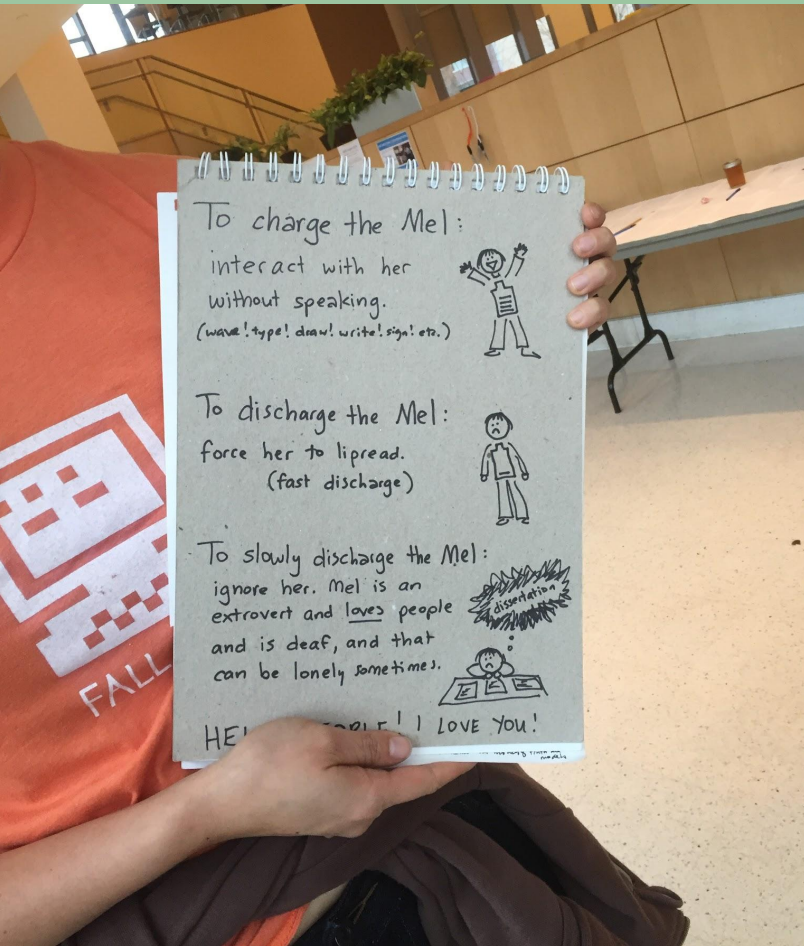
Physically & digitally available



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# Battery Resets

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- Resetting a battery can be complicated
- Everyone's battery drain carries over sometimes

"And the frustration/depression/I-am-a-failure feelings definitely carry over -- especially when I didn't realize (and I still forget) that this is not an "i am broken, it's my fault why can't I fix this" thing."



# What Battery Drain is Worth

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- Mel chooses battery drain for the sake of some activities
- Some experiences and people are worth the extra effort

"These are the things I want to use my energy for."

# Asking for Help

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- Asking for help is extremely difficult
- Struggle to not feel different
- If you need help, chances are someone else will also need it

"It's easier to ask for help when everyone is."

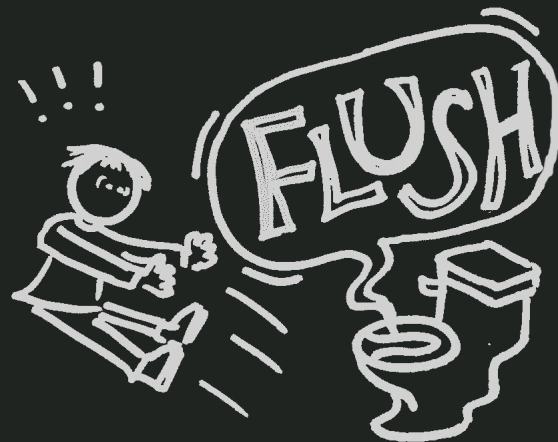
# What we taught Mel

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SOUND - Learning about all of the things that make noise in the world

Change can actually happen!



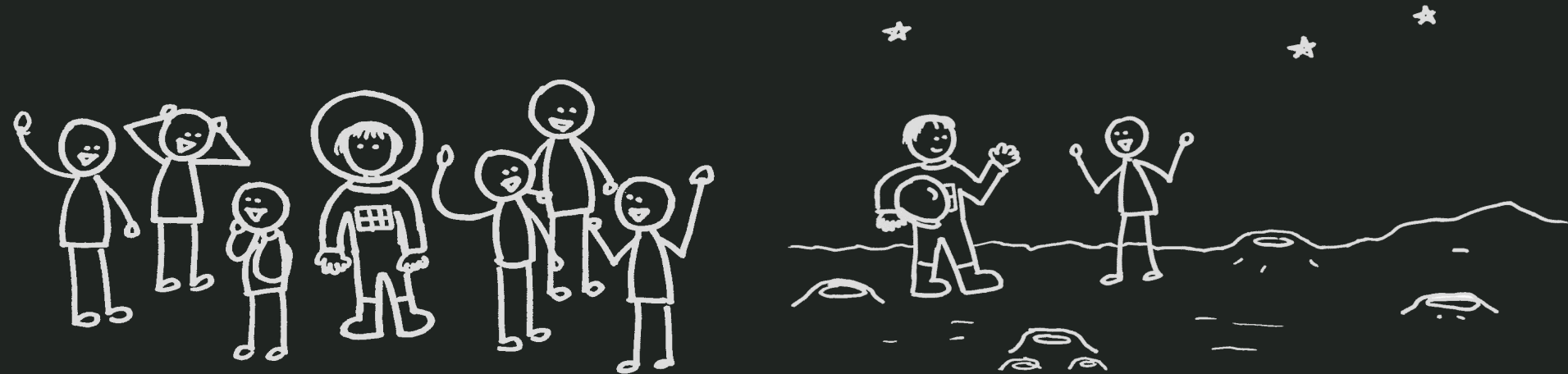


# Access for a few/Access for all

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Terraforming Olin & society

"The biggest impact on me was making it not about impact on me."





Doodles courtesy of  
the amazing Mel!

# Thank you!

Questions?



# Mel Doodles

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Extra slides here on out

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# Communal Batteries

## Mel's Experience:

Got cool lipreading support-- "you know what drains my battery...?"

How are you? => Point at battery!

## Conversation:

Different ways of interpreting/segmenting battery

Performing as higher-energy-teammate than reality

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