

How to create a black box



Our black box was created using a transparent plastic box with an open top, measuring 26 x 16.5 x 25 cm. You could use a shoe box, paper box, or other similar item.

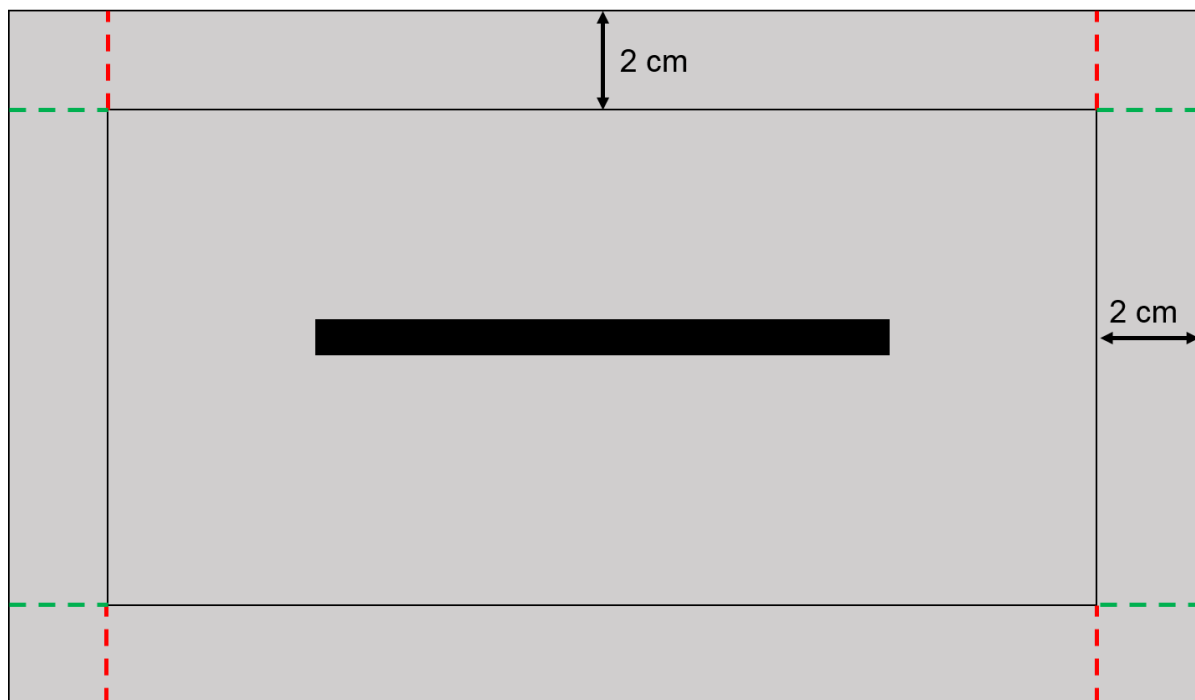
The other materials we used were:

- Several sheets of black card
- Velcro tape
- Sticky tape
- Coloured paper
- Craft knife
- Print outs of different ideas of transparency
 - o Source code
 - o Flow chart
 - o Facebook's Edgerank visualisation

The sides of the box:

1. Cut out a piece of black card big enough to cover each side of the box (not the lid, but include the bottom)
2. Affix a piece of Velcro to each corner of the card, and to the corresponding corners of the box
3. Stick one visualisation of transparency onto each side of the box, plus a piece of blank coloured paper. We left the bottom clear to illustrate the 'transparency' of seeing what data is included but if you do not have a transparent box you can choose a fourth version of transparency. The coloured paper is used to write on the ideas for transparency that the young people come up with.
4. The black card can be fastened over each image, and removed as needed.

For the lid:



1. Measure the area of the *inside* of the top of the box (ours is 25.8 x 16.1 cm) and add 4cm to each side (so 29.8 x 20.1 cm).
2. Cut out a piece of black card to size.
3. Measure 2cm in from each edge and draw a rectangle, as above.
4. Following the above diagram, cut along the red dotted lines.
5. Fold along the inner rectangle, and along the green dotted lines.
6. Tape the flaps from the narrow edges to the inside of the long edges.
7. You should now have a shallow 'tray' which can be fitted into the top of the open box.
8. Cut a pillarbox slot in the middle of it with a craft knife. Make sure it is big enough for the data cards to fit through.

It is handy for the lid to be removable, so you might want to use Velcro or another method to keep it from falling into the box. Alternatively you could tape or glue it in place.