

Ben Roberson

Final Assignment.

I have had a great year with this engineering class. There have been many amazing projects that we have done, but out of all of them, the windmill was my favorite. I enjoyed the windmill for many reasons, but one of the biggest ones was because of the story of William Kamkawamba. His story was quite inspiring to me, in the fact that you don't need to be a qualified professional to do something.

The windmill was quite an interesting design challenge, we were told to build a windmill that could lift a paperclip off of the ground. At first, I thought it would be an easy project, but it turned out to be quite difficult to make the blades work. I tried a few different designs, before settling on Lego leaves. Unfortunately my design failed, but when I came back to it a few days later I realized I had been going about it all wrong. Instead of using a hard material, I used cloth, and it worked spectacularly, spinning so fast that it broke the windmill. I was ecstatic, even with the broken windmill, I took the pieces and put them back on then I added more support to the blades to hold them in place and submitted it! My final windmill was 8 inches tall (body) with the blades being about two inches each, adding an extra inch and a half to the total height.

After the project was submitted and all was done, I had a few more windmill moments. One night I woke up to a rattling noise and I looked down only to see the windmill spinning away to the Air vent! My windmill caught the wind so well after my redesign, that even just blowing on it was enough to start it spinning. This project makes me want to visit the Kamkawamba home and see the windmill for myself. His story was so inspiring to me and I hope all your future students enjoy the project like I did!



←First Design

Second Design

