How to write a Final Specification

When you have completed your research, you then need to check your initial specification against what you have learned and revise the specification accordingly to produce the final specification. In the outside world this final specification would form the basis for your contract with the client, so if they changed their minds half way through the project you can subsequently revise your charges and charge them more.

So with regards to our litter bin example:

1. It must hold litter, by having a metal liner inside the casing which can hold a standard bin liner
2. It must enable people to put litter in easily so the hole to put materials though must be at 300 x 200 minimum
3. It must stop rubbish being blown out by being at least 800 deep for the entrance
4. The client is Harchester Council and they require you to produce 100 basic units
5. They must make a good impression so shape, form and colour will be important
6. It will be used in the centre of the town and will need to be securely fitted to the ground wherever placed, but not in a place to distracting
7. It must be able to be emptied quickly so the lid must be easily opened although it will be locked
8. There must be a range and this can be achieved by using colour and size, but keeping the basic shape
9. It must look new and modern having style and present the right image of the town
10. It will have a galvanised liner which fits in easily and can be removed easily, and it must be able to hold a standard bin bag
11. The main body can be any material but the liner must be metal and the frame be strong enough whether or not the casing is plastic or wood
12. It must be waterproof and not allow water into the waste compartment area
13. It must be hard wearing and be able to resist rain, cold and frost as well as bright sunlight
14. It must be vandal proof and be able to resist major knocks or collisions
15. It must be lockable –using standard locks which will be the same for all bins, although more expensive, only one key would be necessary

Although most of this is pretty obvious you need to include as much information and detail as possible, as well as information from which the project can be tested, evaluated and judged on – i.e. measurable points such as – have you produced 100 units? , is the plastic you used is weather resistant? do they all have the same standard lock? etc.

Remember – you need to think of yourself as designer first, designing a real item, you are not designing a model, the model is only to show the client what you final design looks like. This approach will help you think of points for your specification.

Also in the outside world a lot of these points would come from the initial project meeting that you would have with your client and your boss, so it may be worth you working with a friend to ensure you have covered all the main points.