



## THE MISSION

# school spirit — how can we make it happen?

## CHALLENGE 1.2

suggested duration: 1 lesson

### What is THE CHALLENGE?

The Challenge is a product-based learning experience, putting freshmen in the driver's seat to make a difference for their school, their community, and their futures!

Working collaboratively over a period of 50 Freshman Focus lessons, ninth graders must complete five missions to win The CHALLENGE. Each mission requires purposeful research, planning, and teamwork and can't be finished without the creation of an authentic product that solves a real problem.

The Challenge makes freshmen the decision makers and the problem solvers in their school — all to ease the transition into high school and make it a great experience!

### The Missions

**Mission #1**  
**School Spirit —**  
**How Can We Make It Happen?**

**Mission #2**  
**Bullying —**  
**How Can WE be Bully FREE?**

**Mission #3**  
**Leadership —**  
**Can We All Be Leaders?**

**Mission #4**  
**Safe & Healthy Decisions —**  
**Is It Worth the Risk?**

**Mission #5**  
**Skills & Jobs —**  
**Will We Be Ready for Work?**

Members of the school's alumni association have complained to the Board of Education that school spirit and enthusiasm for our high school has dropped since the time they attended. Your principal is giving you your first mission this school year. The mission is to develop and implement a plan to bolster school spirit and engage more students in school-related activities.

### Directions

- Introduce the mission's driving question: How can we make it happen?
- As a class, continue the discussion on possible causes for the decline in school spirit. Select one of these identified causes to be the focus for this mission.
- Divide the class into small groups of 4-6 students. A student leader should be assigned to work with each small group. Share "The Challenge Collaboration Rubric" with students. The faculty advisor and student leaders should be prepared to evaluate freshmen using the rubric.
- Each group should brainstorm "products" to create that will increase school spirit and participation based on the chosen focus.
- By the end of the session, each small group should reach consensus on one "product" to move forward for further discussion.

### Implementation Suggestions

- Possible focus areas could be: we need greater participation in current clubs; we need to offer new and different clubs/activities; we need to promote greater attendance at school events; we need to design activities during the school day that reflect school pride.
- Possible products for this mission: (1) Create a student survey to gauge interest in existing clubs or generate ideas for new clubs that may elicit greater interest from more students; (2) Design a campaign to increase attendance and participation at school-sponsored activities; (3) Create a tool to measure student cheering at school athletic events; (4) Develop a school spirit calendar to encourage students to wear school colors and spirit-wear.

- Examples of student products fall into four categories: written products, presentation products, media and tech products, and planning products.
- Consult the resource "Major Student Products" for additional ideas and examples.
- Be sure to use "The Challenge Collaboration Rubric."

