



THE MISSION

school spirit — how can we make it happen?

CHALLENGE 1.5

suggested duration: 3 lessons

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

- Determine the key tasks that need to be completed to create the final product. Add tasks to the "Team Work Plan."
- Have students return to their small groups led by a student leader. Each group should be assigned a task(s) from the Team Work Plan to complete.
- Each group will be responsible for one aspect of the entire product completion.
- Students should meet with their respective teams to carry out the work. Be sure to refer to "The Challenge Collaboration Rubric" to remind students of how they will be evaluated throughout their work together.

Implementation Suggestions

- Group tasks could include: data analysis (data from Challenge 1.4), product design, product construction, advertising, presentation development (practice presentation skills), etc.

- Use the resource "Team Work Plan."
- Coordinate periodic "check ins" in between work sessions so that each small group can update the class on progress. This is crucial since all tasks will need to come together for one, final product.
- Don't forget to continue using the class blog to discuss progress on this mission!

