



THE MISSION

leadership — can we all be leaders?

CHALLENGE 3.3

suggested duration: 2 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?**

This mission comes from your student council. They love the school and are proud of the great traditions that make it such a special place. Council members want to make sure this year's freshmen are prepared to be the school leaders of tomorrow. This is your chance to show you have what it takes to become leaders and keep the tradition alive!

Directions

- Each small group should propose its product to the whole class. The goal for each small group is to convince the class that its product will best accomplish the mission.
- The class needs to reach consensus on the best product that will provide a solution and accomplish the mission.

Implementation Suggestions

- Possible products for this mission: (1) Organize a class food drive during the holiday season; (2) Create a tutoring club staffed by freshmen; (3) Develop a peer mentorship program to support students who are struggling socially; (4) Organize a "No Student Sits Alone at Lunch" campaign.
- It's important that students understand that once they select the "best" product idea, everyone in the class will have a role in creating it to accomplish the mission.

- 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.
- Don't forget to continue using the class blog to discuss progress on this mission!

