



THE MISSION

safe & healthy decisions — is it worth the risk?

CHALLENGE 4.4

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?**

The school nurse is concerned. She is seeing an increase in the number of visits for student obesity, sexually transmitted diseases, drinking, prescription drug abuse, and stress and anxiety. The principal is now concerned too and needs help. Your mission is to raise awareness of safe and healthy decisions and the dangers of risky behavior.

Directions

- Students should return to their small groups led by student leaders.
- Students should search for data and information required to design/implement the chosen product/solution.
- Possible sources for this information: online resources, printed materials, surveys, interviews, focus groups.
- Each group should pursue a different source/strategy to gather the facts.
- Once research is complete, each small group should report key findings.

Implementation Suggestions

- Sources for information could include: (1) surveys with students, teachers; (2) online research of what other schools to address risky behaviors; (3) interview health officials, police officers, etc.; (4) focus groups with students, parents, teachers, administrators, etc. about the dangers and perceptions of the risky behavior.

- The research phase of the mission can take place over an extended period of time. It is likely that this research can't be completed during class time only. Students will need to do some of the work outside the school day. Consider partnering with ninth grade English teachers/courses for this part of the mission.

resources
&
extension