



THE MISSION

skills & jobs — will we be ready for work?

CHALLENGE 5.2

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?**

The Chamber of Commerce needs your help. Local business and industry leaders in your community are concerned that today's students are not aware of the changing job market. Jobs are different today, and the skills needed to do them are also different. Your last mission is to raise awareness in school of the many career opportunities that await students in their future.

Directions

- Introduce the mission's driving question: Will we be ready for work?
- As a class, continue the discussion on the careers of today and in the future and what it means for students. Select a focus for this mission based on your discussion.
- 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 career awareness 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 to focus more on developing our "work" skills; we need to be kept better informed of new and changing careers; we need more opportunities to explore careers; we need to design more activities during school that focus on career development.
- Possible products for this mission: (1) Develop a common set of "work" skills that the entire school will share and develop in all classes; (2) Create a career speaker series to inform students of future options; (3) Implement a "shadow day" during the school year to explore a career; (4) Organize a career fair for the student body.

- 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."

