



# skills & jobs — will we be ready for work?

## CHALLENGE 5.3

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?**

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

- 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) 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.
- 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!

