



## THE MISSION

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

## CHALLENGE 5.4

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 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

- 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, business leaders, parents, teachers; (2) online research of what other schools in the area are doing to raise career awareness; (3) current research about today's job market and careers of the future; (4) focus groups with students, parents, business leaders, teachers, etc.

- 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.

