

Best Practices for Running a Successful Challenge

The following list of best practices has been assembled to help sponsors maximize the success of their Challenge. If you have questions or would like additional assistance, we're happy to help you through the process; you can contact us at support@31projects.com or (919) 899-9603.

1) Be clear about your goals for the Challenge

The first step in a Challenge is to clearly define the goals of the Challenge- what you hope to get out of it. Start by identifying the problem you'd like to solve and how you would define a good solution.

2) Develop a clear, interesting Challenge description & title

The most important step in a successful Challenge is developing the Challenge description. The description and title should be interesting and appealing to students, and the Challenge requirements should be clear and understandable. If you'd like help in formulating your description, we're happy to review it with you.

3) State what form the solution should be in

As part of the description, be sure to also clearly specify what form the solution should take, whether it is Powerpoint, a word document or PDF, images, or something else.

4) Offer a prize fitting of the time & effort required

We don't require that organizations offer a monetary prize to the winner of their Challenge, however we suggest that you consider doing so depending on the time and effort required to develop solutions. Offering a prize, even a small one, can help spur greater participation from students.

5) Advertise your Challenge on your website

When you post a Challenge on 31Projects, it will be hosted on the website and will also be broadcasted to student members. You can help generate further interest in your Challenge and draw an increased number of solutions by advertising it on your website as well.

6) Evaluate solutions first before viewing students' profiles

By reviewing solutions prior to looking at students' profiles to see who created them, you avoid being biased in your evaluation of the solutions and focus entirely on identifying the best solution without regard to who created it.

7) If you have questions, we're here to help!

We love talking with sponsors about their Challenges and helping them along the way. If you have any questions or just want to discuss your project, give us a call at (919) 899-9603 or email us at support@31projects.com.