

**Think! Create! Innovate!  
The Ohio Challenge is on!**



**2025 STUDENT GUIDE**



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## WHAT IS THE OHIO INNOVATION CHALLENGE?

The Ohio Innovation Challenge is a **100% virtual FREE challenge** designed to stimulate ideas and celebrate students for their creativity, ingenuity and impactful work.

This challenge welcomes innovations of all types, including prototypes, apps, social programs, games and more.



Top innovators from this challenge advance to the [National Innovator Challenge](#) and possibly move up from there to the [Global Innovation Challenge](#) and other international opportunities.



The Ohio Innovation Challenge is a two-round, 100% virtual challenge.

- **Round 1:** All participants are included in Round 1 of the challenge. During this round, panels of specially trained judges will review the pitch video, logbook/journal, and 6-slide presentation and recommend entries to advance to Round 2 of the challenge.
- **Round 2:** Projects selected to advance to Round 2 of the challenge will be invited to the Live Presentation Round, where each innovator or team will have the opportunity to pitch their innovation to their peers and where their peers will provide positive feedback and ask the presenters questions. Post-event all sessions of the Live Presentation Round will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will make recommendations for Top Innovator and Top Collaborator recognition.

### IMPORTANT WEBSITES & EMAIL ADDRESS

**General information about Innovation World:**

<https://innovationworld.org/>

**Learn about the Ohio Innovation Challenge:**

<https://innovationworld.org/ohio-innovation-challenge/>

**Register for the Ohio Innovation Challenge:**

[https://innovationworld.org/oic\\_registration/](https://innovationworld.org/oic_registration/)

**Questions?** [info@innovationworld.org](mailto:info@innovationworld.org).





# GETTING STARTED

THE OHIO INNOVATION CHALLENGE (OIC) is an annual challenge designed to provide innovators and teams k-12, primarily from Ohio, a place to share, compete and be celebrated for their brilliant innovations.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Participating students:

- ✓ Must be a student from kindergarten through 12th grade (or equivalent).
- ✓ Must register as an individual or team of up to a maximum of 3 students.
- ✓ Must have created a unique innovation or significantly improved an existing innovation.
- ✓ May be registered to **only one innovation** in the 2025 OIC.

## TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Teams may include participants outside the state of Ohio and outside of the United States, providing at least one member of the team resides in the state of Ohio.
- ✓ Teams can be of any size, however a maximum of three students may be selected to represent the greater team for any in-person judging that may take place during the challenge.
- ✓ To be eligible, all team members must be within the eligible grades (k-12).



## IMPORTANT PROGRAM DATES AND DEADLINE REQUIREMENTS

- **Registration opens February 1 and closes April 26** (all materials must be uploaded and the registration form completed in full to be eligible).

- **April 27 – May 10:** Judges will evaluate logbooks, pitch videos, and slide decks to recommend projects for the Live Presentation Round.



- **May 11 -** Notifications of advancement to the Live Presentation Round will be emailed.

- **May 17 & 18 -** The Live Presentation Round will take place online in moderated groups. Groups consist of a moderator and peer innovators. Individuals and teams will present and peer innovators will ask questions and provide positive feedback. Post-event all sessions of the Live Presentation Round will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will make recommendations for Top Innovator and Top Collaborator recognition.



**June 1 -** Celebration & Recognition Ceremony of Top Collaborators and the Top Innovators and notice of participants earning the opportunity to participate in the National Innovator Challenge (NIC).

- **June 1 – June 22 -** NIC registration.



**Note:** Challenge deadlines may change or be extended with little to no advanced notice.



## WHAT IS AN INNOVATION?

### HOW WE DEFINE INNOVATION

The Oxford Dictionary defines “innovation” as a new method, idea, or product.

We expand the definition to include significantly improved methods, ideas or products. By this we mean you could create an enhancement, change or addition to a current innovation that significantly improves that innovation or performs the same function in a different way. For example, a plain pencil is used to write, but a pencil with an eraser can both write and erase. While a pen performs basically the same function it does so in a different way. These are all innovations.



Further, you could also combine existing products to come up with a unique innovation. For example, a fork was combined with a spoon to make a Spork.



**Examples of innovations include prototypes, apps, ideas, social good programs, services, and processes. Your innovation may be different, and we encourage you to apply.**

### INNOVATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Innovations from other programs/contests** - Innovators may, but do not have to create a unique innovation just for the OIC. They may show an innovation they created for another program or an innovation they have shown before at OIC providing there has been significant improvement to the innovation.
- **Electronics** - The innovation may or may not be electronic or have electronic components.
- **The innovation works or theoretically works.** Remember, your innovation does not need to work perfectly or for you to even have on hand all of the necessary materials and components to make it work. For example, maybe you don't have all of the parts already made or maybe you still need certain approvals to set up your innovation. The key is understanding what is needed and ensuring that the science, plan, or process is theoretically sound.





- **Pitch video** - A 60-second video pitch or commercial that can be shared with the judges and also used to highlight your innovation on social media. This is your chance to get the attention of the judges and get them excited and interested in your innovation. *For more information see 60-Second Pitch Video on page 9.*



**Important Note:** Judges will be instructed to ignore anything beyond the first 60 seconds of the Pitch Video.

- **The story of your innovation** - Every innovation has a backstory which is the reason for its development and the path you followed to bring the innovation to some level of completion. The backstory for your innovation may be in a diary, journal, inventor’s log or other narrative, and must be presented as one of the supporting documents for this challenge. *For more information see Evaluation Criteria by Grade Band beginning on page 17.*



- **Presentation document** - Each individual or team must develop a 6-page presentation that is required for the Round 1 judging event and which presenters can opt to use if they advance to the Round 2 judging event. Presentations must not be longer than 6 pages. *For more information see 6-Slide/Page Presentation and/or Your Live Verbal Presentation on page 11.*



**Important Note:** Judges will be instructed to ignore anything beyond 6 pages.



## PRIOR TO REGISTERING FOR THE OIC

- Be ready to attach a diary, logbook, or journal documenting the details of your innovation process.
- Create a Presentation Document of no more than 6 pages or slides summarizing the highlights of your innovation process.
- Create a 60-second (or less) pitch video.
- Include a picture of yourself or the team.
- Take a picture or create an image of your innovation to upload.

*More information can be found under Preparing Your OIC Materials and Presentations on page 9.*

## REGISTER FOR THE OIC BEFORE END OF DAY APRIL 26

- Click here to register: [https://innovationworld.org/oic\\_registration/](https://innovationworld.org/oic_registration/) (opens Feb 1). Note: a parent or guardian must complete the form if the applicant is not at least 18 years of age.
- Only one registration form is required detailing participant information for all members of the team.
- Participant's information: Full name, gender, age, city, state/region, country, parent name(s), and contact email for each member of the team.

### Innovation Entry Information:

- Includes the name of your innovation.
- The problem it solves.
- Upload a picture of yourself or team.
- Upload the image of your innovation, screenshot of a portion of the code, a partial diagram, or high-level outline of the idea.
- Upload your Pitch Video (No longer than 60 seconds).
- Upload your logbook, journal or diary.
- Presentation document - a presentation not longer than 6 slides or pages, saved as PDF or .pptx.

**Evaluation criteria for the first and second rounds of the OIC can be found beginning on under *Evaluation Criteria by Grade Level* beginning on page 17.**





## AFTER REGISTERING FOR THE OIC

1. **CONFIRMATION:** After filling in the registration information and uploading the required files you will receive an on-screen confirmation that your registration was complete.

**Thank you for registering for the Ohio Innovation Challenge!**

More information will be coming soon.

2. If you do NOT see the on-screen “Thank you” message, and instead you receive a message like the example below, then something was not completed or not completed correctly.

There was a problem with your submission. Please review the fields below.



- Logbook/Journal (in PDF format): This field is required.

Scroll back through your order, look for the error and fix it.

You will NOT be able to leave the registration site with a partially completed form and then return later.

3. After you complete your registration you will receive an email from [info@innovationworld.org](mailto:info@innovationworld.org) confirming the completed registration. If you did not find the email, check your SPAM folder for it.

Your registration will be reviewed by the OIC Team and any questions, concerns or omissions will be forwarded to you via email.

4. **ROUND 1 JUDGING APRIL 27 – MAY 10:** The first round of judging occurs off-line, and you will receive an email by May 11 notifying you if you have been selected as a Finalist for the second Live Presentation Round.
5. **ROUND 2 LIVE PRESENTATION MAY 17 & 18:** Live Presentation Round – Consisting of a moderator and peer innovators.
  - The time of the sessions on May 17 & May 18 will be provided at least 2 weeks prior to the presentation dates.
  - Students must be present and participate at the live presentation in order to be eligible for awards or possible advancement to the National Innovator Challenge.
  - Each innovator/team will present followed by comments and questions from their peers.
  - Post-event, the Executive Judging Committee will review all recorded sessions to determine Top Innovators (based on the evaluations in Round 1 and Round 2) and Top Collaborators (peers who were supportive and encouraging in their comments and questions).
  - Top Innovators earn the opportunity to represent Ohio at the National Innovator Challenge.
  - Top Collaborators are recognized as such and also have the opportunity to continue working innovators for their ongoing preparation for nationals.
  - Innovators can earn both Top Innovator and Top Collaborator recognition.

6. **OHIO INNOVATION CHALLENGE AWARDS CEREMONY SUNDAY, JUNE 1.**





# PREPARING YOUR OIC MATERIALS AND PRESENTATIONS

This section offers requirements and tips for the materials you will upload and the presentation(s) you will deliver.

Materials/Presentations	Round 1	Live Presentation Round
Image of Individual or Team	Required	not needed for this round
Image of Innovation	Required	not needed for this round
60-Second Pitch Video	Required	not needed for this round
Logbook/Journal	Required	not needed for this round
6-Slide/Page Presentation	Required	You have the option to use your 6-Slide/Page Presentation to support live performance presentation.
Live Presentation	not needed for this round	Innovators advanced to Round 2 will be required to make a Live Presentation via Zoom.

## IMAGE OF INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM



Create a JPEG or PNG image of yourself or your team (max. file size: 512 MB).

## IMAGE OF INNOVATION

Create a JPEG or PNG image of your innovation (max. file size: 512 MB). The purpose of the image is to enable judges to generally understand more about your innovation, but the image should NOT contain too much detailed information so that it damages your Intellectual Property rights. [See Protecting Your Intellectual Property on page 37.](#)



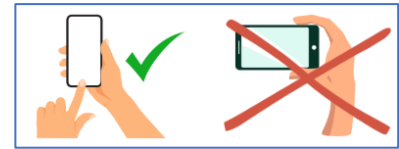
### Example images:

- Idea: a small portion of your blueprint, diagram, illustration, or outline of saved as a PDF
- App: screenshot(s) of a portion of your code as well as screenshot(s) of your user interface
- Prototype: picture(s) that does not show all of the critical pieces
- Social-good program or service: high level business plan
- Process: process diagram/chart

## 60-SECOND PITCH VIDEO

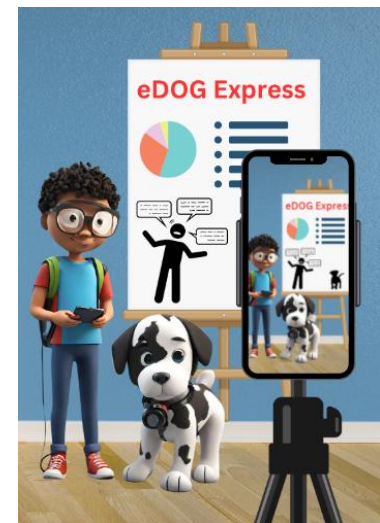
### VIDEO REQUIREMENTS:

- The video may not exceed 60 seconds.
- You may create your video using whatever technology you have available.
- If using a cell phone, capture the video in portrait.
- You may edit your pitch video.
- Make sure to include the innovation name and the name(s) of the innovator(s), the problem and the solution.
- Make sure the video shares the problem as well as the solution.
- Save your video in MP4, MOV, or AVI format (max. file size: 512 MB).



### TOP 10 LIST OF TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE A GREAT 60-SECOND PITCH VIDEO:

1. **Start with a Strong Hook:** Capture viewers' attention with a compelling opening statement or question that piques their interest.
2. **Focus on the Problem:** Clearly articulate the problem or challenge your product or service addresses. Make sure the problem is relatable and significant to your target audience.
3. **Introduce Your Solution:** Concisely explain how your product or service solves the problem. Highlight the unique features or benefits that set it apart from competitors.
4. **Keep it Simple:** Avoid using technical jargon or complex language. Keep your message clear, concise, and easy to understand.
5. **Show, Don't Just Tell:** Whenever possible, demonstrate your product or service. Use visuals, animations, or real-life examples to illustrate its effectiveness.
6. **Highlight Key Benefits:** Emphasize the main benefits or outcomes that users can expect from using your product or service. Focus on how it improves their lives or solves their problems.
7. **Include Social Proof:** Share testimonials, case studies, or success stories from satisfied customers or clients to build credibility and trust.
8. **Call to Action (CTA):** End your pitch with a clear and compelling call to action. Encourage viewers to take the next step, whether it's signing up for a free trial, visiting your website, or contacting you for more information.
9. **Practice, Practice, Practice:** Rehearse your pitch multiple times to ensure it flows smoothly and effectively within the 60-second time limit. Practice speaking confidently and naturally.
10. **Edit:** out any unnecessary or repetitive information to keep the pitch focused and engaging.



Check out these videos for additional ideas on creating your 60-second pitch:

[Lunch BX](#) [Yummers](#) [30-Second Elevator Pitch instructional by Professor Bell](#)

**The goal of the pitch video is NOT to explain everything about the innovation, but to get people interested in learning more about the innovation.**

## LOGBOOK/JOURNAL

### TOP TIPS TO MAKE SURE YOUR LOGBOOK/JOURNAL IS COMPLETE:

- Does your logbook/journal clearly explain the design process (from identifying the problem through testing and refining the innovation)?
- Are the pages clear, detailed, & thorough?
- Have you identified anyone who helped?
- Have you identify any materials used and how you obtained those materials?
- Is both the research and analysis clearly shown?



## 6-SLIDE/PAGE PRESENTATION AND/OR YOUR LIVE VERBAL PRESENTATION

### OIC PRESENTATIONS CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

1. **A 6-slide/page presentation** is required and will be reviewed by our judges in Round 1 along with your logbook/journal, pitch video and the innovation image to determine which innovations will advance to the Live Presentation Round.

In order to allow each project the same amount of review time by our judges, OIC limits you to 6 total presentation slides/pages so you need to plan how to use them well so that they can help you make your best presentation AND cover as much information as possible. If you submit a presentation with more than 6 total slides, you will be asked to edit the presentation down to 6 slides.

Your slides must be uploaded with your registration in PPTX (PowerPoint) or PDF (Adobe). (**max. file size: 512 MB**).

2. **Live Presentation Round** (If you advance to round 2) you may give your live presentation of your innovation story with or without the use of your 6-slide presentation – it's up to you.



Below we have given you some guiding principles on how you might want to structure your presentations, followed by example slides. These can be used for your 6-slide presentation and/or your verbal presentation. Using them should assist you in covering all of the details you wish to present.

## TOP TIPS FOR YOUR 6-SLIDE PRESENTATION

Everyone has their own style and you should use yours. Below are some suggested tips to help you.

- Typically you will have 3 minutes to present during your live presentation (if you advance to round 2) and then 5 minutes for Q&A. At the end of that 8 minute mark, your presentation will be over. Use your time wisely.
- Plan what each slide will show so that you cover all you want to say.
- Your presentation should have a strong opening, closing and should keep your audience interested throughout.
- A mix of information and images will help keep your presentation interesting.
- Rather than long paragraphs of information, short summarized information or even bullet points detailing the most important information will be easier for your audience to follow and understand.
- In a notebook draw up a plan. For example: Divide your slides into two halves. On one side you might add an illustration, picture or photo. On the other side you might add the high level details you want to share.
- For very young innovators, parents/teachers are welcome to help prompt as needed.
- For students with English language issues, an adult can assist them with translation. The adult will NOT give the presentation, but merely assist with translation from time to time, as appropriate.
- If you are presenting as a team:
  - At the start of the presentation, the person speaking should provide their name and the name of all teammates representing the innovation.
  - Where appropriate, teammates should help the student who is talking at the moment, by demonstrating or using the solution.
- This presentation is your opportunity to explain what you have done, why you did it, how you did it and what the result is. You will do great - remember you are the expert on your topic!
- Practice, Practice, PRACTICE! Practice really does make perfect.



Look at the Example Slides 1 through 6 on the following pages to guide you further.

# PROJECT TITLE

## Example Slide 1 INTRODUCTION & PROBLEM STATEMENT

Your Name  
Your Age  
City/Country

Image or illustration  
representing your  
innovation

Share what you will be talking about, including:

- The problem statement, why you chose this problem, who has the problem (identify your customer)
- A general description (protecting your intellectual property) of your idea to solve the problem



Your slides should have your unique look, colors, fonts and images. Just be sure they are, interesting, clear and easy to read.

# PROJECT TITLE

## Example Slide 2 FACTS

- Share what you discovered through your research
- Share statistics/data you collected
- Other important facts



Select the most important, impactful information that supports your selection of the problem.

Image or illustration  
supporting this slide

Image or illustration  
supporting this slide



## PROJECT TITLE

## Example Slide 3 YOUR SOLUTION

- A general description of your solution and how it solves the problem.
- Demonstrate your solution and compare it to others already available and how yours is/or could be better
- Future planned improvements
- Other information you feel is important



This is your opportunity to get others excited about your solution and how it is different from other solutions. Be creative!

Remember to protect your intellectual property by keeping your details general.

Image or illustration supporting this slide

## PROJECT TITLE

## Example Slide 4 CHALLENGES

Image or illustration supporting this slide

Image or illustration supporting this slide

- Describe the challenges you ran into and how you resolved them
- Share any user feedback or data you collected and describe if/how it changed your innovation

Image or illustration supporting this slide

Image or illustration supporting this slide

- Other information you feel is important

Highlight the most important information supporting the different iterations of your innovation.



Visuals keep your presentation interesting. Use as many photos or illustrations as you choose to. You are the expert!

## PROJECT TITLE

## Example Slide 5 ACTION

- Describe the actions either you (or others) have taken on this problem
- Describe what still needs to be done
- Add other information you feel is important



- Action could include:
- Market research (size of your market)
  - Speaking to industry specialists
  - Brainstorming discussions
  - Exploring ideas with teachers/facilitators friends or family interested in this topic
  - Can you think of others?

image(s) or illustration that supports this slide

image(s) or illustration that supports this slide

image(s) or illustration that supports this slide

## PROJECT TITLE

## Example Slide 6 SUMMARY, THANK YOU & GOODBYE

- **List main points**  
(could be one for each previous slide)
  1. main point...
  2. main point...
  3. main point...
  4. main point...
  5. main point...
- If there is a call to action, share it here.
- Thank your audience and say goodbye.



Use this last slide to engage your audience, seek any further help you may want and to invite questions.

image(s) or illustration that supports this slide

## TOP TIPS FOR THE LIVE PRESENTATION

If you are chosen to advance to the Live Presentation Round of the Ohio Innovation Challenge, you will be asked to present your innovation in a live round to peer innovators. There will be a moderator present as well.

To prepare for this, you will need to create a verbal presentation that represents your innovation story in the best way possible. When you are thinking about how you want to present this information, you could choose to follow the guidelines detailed in the 6-slide examples, you could choose to work from flashcards or you could present just by memory - whichever way makes you comfortable.

Earlier in this student guide we gave you some principles on how you might want to structure your 6-slide presentation. These can also be used for your verbal presentation, using them should assist you in covering all of the details you wish to present.

- Speak clearly.
- Look at the camera.
- Engage your audience.
- Watch your timing - you have 3 minutes to present. This means you have 180 seconds to cover all the important details of your innovation story, or about 30 seconds per topic. Some topics take more time than others. You need to work this out for your presentation, but we suggest:
  - 30 seconds on your Introduction
  - 20 seconds on your Facts
  - 60 seconds on Your Solution
  - 20 seconds on Challenges
  - 20 seconds on Action
  - 30 seconds on Summary, Thank You and Goodbye
- Be interested in any feedback or questions asked, they may help you improve your innovation.
- Practice, Practice, PRACTICE! Practice really does make perfect.





# EVALUATION CRITERIA BY GRADE BAND

## EVALUATION CRITERIA - GRADE BAND K-2 (AGES 5-7)

The Judges will be using the criteria below for evaluating the innovative work. You should make sure that through your presentation and supporting materials you address all of the criteria. Note: Presenting teams will be evaluated based on the age of the oldest member of the team. Example – If a Team is made up of a 6-year old and 10-year old, the team will be judged at the 10-year old level.

### GRADES K-2 INNOVATION PITCH VIDEO (AGES 5-7)

**Strong Opening** - Does the video start with an attention-grabbing statement or question?

- 5: Wow! Your opening grabbed attention right away. Amazing start!
- 4: Great work! Your opening was interesting, but it could be even more exciting.
- 3: Nice job! Your opening is good, but try thinking of a fun or surprising way to start.
- 2: Good try! Let's work on making the opening catch attention even more.
- 1: You're off to a great start! Can you think of a question or fun fact to open your video?

**Clear Problem Explanation** - Does the video clearly explain the problem the innovation solves?

- 5: Fantastic! You explained the problem so clearly that anyone can understand.
- 4: Great job! The problem is clear, but adding a bit more about why it's important could make it stronger.
- 3: Nice effort! You've explained the problem. Try making it a little simpler or more relatable.
- 2: Good start! Let's work on explaining the problem so everyone can understand it better.
- 1: You've got the beginning. Can you tell us more about the problem your idea helps solve?

**Solution Presentation** - Does the video introduce the solution in an easy-to-understand way?

- 5: Amazing! Your solution is explained so clearly and looks super helpful.
- 4: Great job! Your solution is explained well. Add a bit more about why it's special to make it even better.
- 3: Nice effort! You've shared your idea. Try explaining more about how it works.
- 2: Good try! Let's practice explaining your solution so everyone can see how great it is.
- 1: Great start! Can you show us more about how your idea helps solve the problem?

**Use of Visuals** - Does the video show the innovation or use visuals to explain the idea?

- 5: Wow! Your visuals make it super easy to understand your idea. Great work!
- 4: Great effort! Your visuals help a lot. Adding a bit more or making them clearer would be even better.
- 3: Good job! You included visuals. Try using them more to explain your idea.
- 2: Nice start! Let's add pictures, drawings, or even a quick demo of your idea.
- 1: You're off to a good start! Showing us what your idea looks like will make your video even better.

**Enthusiasm and Delivery** - Does the video show enthusiasm and confidence in presenting the idea?

- 5: Fantastic energy! Your excitement makes us love your idea even more.
- 4: Great job! You sound confident. Adding even more enthusiasm could make it even better.
- 3: Nice effort! You're doing great. Try speaking a little louder or more excitedly to grab attention.
- 2: Good start! Let's practice so your voice and energy match how amazing your idea is.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you show us how excited you are about your idea?



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## GRADES K-2 INNOVATORS LOGBOOK/JOURNAL (AGES 5-7)

**Idea Growth** - Does the logbook show how the student's idea grew or changed over time?

- 5: You did an amazing job showing how your idea got better and better!
- 4: Great work showing some changes and new ideas as you worked.
- 3: You showed your idea and how it started, with room to show more about how it grew.
- 2: Nice start! Let's explore more ways your idea could grow.
- 1: Your logbook shows a great start. Can you add more about how your idea grew?

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**Using Pictures and Drawings** - Does the logbook use drawings, pictures, or models to share ideas?

- 5: Fantastic! Your pictures and drawings make your idea so easy to understand.
- 4: Great job! Your pictures are clear, with a little room for more details.
- 3: You added pictures, but they could show more about your idea.
- 2: Nice effort! Let's add more pictures or details to help explain your idea.
- 1: Wonderful start! Can you add some pictures to show what you're thinking?

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**Problem Solving** - Does the logbook show how the student thought about and worked on challenges?

- 5: Amazing! You showed how you found and solved tricky problems in your project.
- 4: Great work! You showed how you solved problems, with a bit of room for more details.
- 3: You noticed a problem and tried to fix it. Awesome start!
- 2: Nice try! Let's think about ways to show how you solved a problem.
- 1: Your logbook is off to a great start. How did you solve any challenges?

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**Sharing Details** - Does the logbook include enough details to explain ideas and the process?

- 5: Wow! Your logbook is full of great details that explain everything so well.
- 4: Great work! You added lots of details, with a little room for more.
- 3: You've included some details. Can you add more to help others understand your work?
- 2: Your logbook has a great start. Let's add a few more details to explain your thinking.
- 1: Let's add more to your logbook so others can see all the great work you've done!

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**Creative Thinking** - Does the logbook show unique or imaginative ideas?

- 5: Amazing! Your ideas are so creative and fun to see!
- 4: Great work! Your solutions are creative, with room for even more new ideas.
- 3: You showed some creative thinking. Can you try something even more unique?
- 2: Good start! Let's think of ways to make your idea even more special.
- 1: Your logbook is off to a great start. Can you add more of your creative ideas?





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## GRADES K-2 INNOVATION 6-SLIDE PRESENTATION DECK (AGES 5-7)

**Organization and Clarity** - Does the presentation flow well and clearly explain the project?

- 5: Amazing! Your slides are well-organized and make your project easy to understand.
- 4: Great work! Your slides are clear. Adding a bit more structure would make them even stronger.
- 3: Good effort! Your slides are coming together. Try organizing your information more clearly.
- 2: Nice start! Let's work on arranging your slides to tell your story better.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you make your slides easier to follow by adding structure or labels?

---

**Creativity and Visual Appeal** - Are the slides visually engaging and creative?

- 5: Fantastic! Your slides are colorful, fun, and make your project exciting to look at.
- 4: Great job! Your slides are creative. Add a bit more variety or design to make them even better.
- 3: Nice effort! Your slides are clear. Try making them more colorful or adding images.
- 2: Good try! Let's add pictures, colors, or shapes to make your slides more fun to look at.
- 1: Great start! Can you add some pictures or colors to make your slides more exciting?

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**Problem and Solution Explanation** - Do the slides explain the problem and how the idea solves it?

- 5: Amazing! You explained the problem and your solution in a way that's easy to understand.
- 4: Great work! Your explanation is clear. Adding a bit more about why the problem matters could help.
- 3: Good effort! You've explained the problem and solution. Try making it simpler or adding details.
- 2: Nice start! Let's work on explaining how your idea solves the problem.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you tell us more about the problem and how your idea helps?

---

**Use of Images and Examples** - Do the slides include images or examples to explain the project?

- 5: Wow! Your pictures and examples make everything super easy to understand.
- 4: Great job! Your images are clear. Adding a few more examples could make them even better.
- 3: Nice work! You've included pictures. Try showing more about how your project works.
- 2: Good try! Let's add more images or examples to help explain your idea.
- 1: Great start! Can you add pictures or examples to show your project better?

---

**Enthusiasm and Presentation** - Do the slides reflect excitement and effort in sharing the project?

- 5: Fantastic! Your slides are exciting and show how proud you are of your project.
- 4: Great work! Your slides show enthusiasm. Adding a bit more detail would make them shine.
- 3: Nice effort! Your slides are good. Try adding more excitement or fun details.
- 2: Good start! Let's make your slides reflect how awesome your project is.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you show us more excitement through your slides?



**GRADES K-2 INNOVATION LIVE PRESENTATION (AGES 5-7)**

**Clarity and Confidence** - Did the presenter speak clearly and show confidence?

- 5: Amazing! You spoke clearly, confidently, and shared your idea so well.
- 4: Great job! You were clear and confident. Adding a little more enthusiasm would make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! You spoke clearly. Try speaking a bit louder and more confidently.
- 2: Nice start! Let's practice speaking more clearly and confidently about your idea.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you practice speaking louder and sharing your idea more clearly?

**Problem and Solution Explanation** - Did the presenter explain the problem and their solution in an easy-to-understand way?

- 5: Fantastic! You explained the problem and solution in a way that's clear and fun to hear.
- 4: Great work! The problem and solution are clear. Add a bit more about why the problem matters to make it even better.
- 3: Nice effort! You explained the problem and solution. Try making them even simpler to understand.
- 2: Good start! Let's practice explaining how your idea solves the problem.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you tell us more about the problem and how your idea works?

**Visuals and Demonstrations** - Did the presenter use visuals or demonstrations to explain their idea?

- 5: Wow! Your visuals and demonstrations helped explain your idea perfectly.
- 4: Great job! Your visuals are helpful. Add more examples or demonstrations to make them even better.
- 3: Nice work! You used visuals. Try showing more about how your idea works.
- 2: Good effort! Let's add some pictures or a quick demo to help explain your idea.
- 1: Great start! Can you show us something to help us see your idea more clearly?

**Engagement and Energy** - Did the presenter keep the audience interested and excited about their idea?

- 5: Amazing! You were enthusiastic and kept the audience interested the whole time.
- 4: Great work! You were engaging. Adding even more energy could make it even better.
- 3: Nice effort! You kept us interested. Try being a bit more excited about your idea.
- 2: Good start! Let's practice showing how exciting your idea is.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you show us how proud you are of your idea?

**Overall Presentation** - Did the presenter give a complete and organized presentation?

- 5: Fantastic! Your presentation was clear, complete, and easy to follow.
- 4: Great effort! Your presentation was strong. Adding more organization could make it even better.
- 3: Nice work! Your presentation is coming together—try adding more details in some areas.
- 2: Good start! Let's practice organizing your ideas so they're easier to follow.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you make your presentation more complete by adding missing details?



## EVALUATION CRITERIA - GRADE BAND 3-5 (AGES 8-11)

The Judges will be using the criteria below for evaluating the innovative work. You should make sure that through your presentation and supporting materials you address all of the criteria. Note: Presenting teams will be evaluated based on the age of the oldest member of the team. Example – If a Team is made up of a 6-year old and 10-year old, the team will be judged at the 10-year old level.

### GRADES 3-5 INNOVATORS PITCH VIDEO (AGES 8-11)

**Strong Opening** - Does the video start with an attention-grabbing statement or question?

- 5: Excellent opening! Your hook immediately caught our attention. Great work!
- 4: Great job! Your opening was strong, but it could grab attention even more.
- 3: Good effort! Your opening works. Try making it more surprising or exciting.
- 2: Nice start! Let's think of a question, fun fact, or bold statement to start with.
- 1: Great first step! Can you brainstorm a way to make your opening stand out more?

**Problem Focus** - Does the video clearly explain the problem the innovation addresses?

- 5: Fantastic! You made the problem clear and easy to understand.
- 4: Great effort! The problem is explained well. Adding why it matters could make it even stronger.
- 3: Nice work! You explained the problem. Try focusing on why it's important to solve.
- 2: Good try! Let's practice making the problem easier for everyone to understand.
- 1: You're off to a great start! Can you tell us more about why the problem is important?

**Solution Presentation** - Does the video introduce the innovation and explain how it solves the problem?

- 5: Amazing! Your solution is clear, easy to understand, and sounds very helpful.
- 4: Great job! Your solution is well explained. Add more about its uniqueness to make it even better.
- 3: Nice effort! You shared your idea. Try showing us more about how it works.
- 2: Good start! Let's work on explaining how your solution solves the problem.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you tell us more about how your idea works or helps?

**Use of Visuals** - Does the video include visuals, demonstrations, or drawings to explain the idea?

- 5: Fantastic! Your visuals make everything so easy to understand. Great work!
- 4: Great effort! Your visuals help a lot. Try making them even clearer or adding a few more.
- 3: Good job! You used visuals. Try showing more or explaining them better.
- 2: Nice try! Let's include pictures, drawings, or a demo of your idea.
- 1: You've got the beginning. Can you add visuals to help explain your idea?

**Confidence and Engagement** - Does the presenter sound confident and engage the viewer?

- 5: Incredible! Your energy and confidence make your idea so exciting!
- 4: Great job! You sound confident. Try adding even more energy to make it stronger.
- 3: Nice effort! You're doing great. Practice speaking clearly/confidently to make it even better.
- 2: Good try! Let's practice speaking louder and with more excitement about your idea.
- 1: You're on your way. Can you show us how proud you are of your idea?



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## GRADES 3-5 INNOVATORS LOGBOOK/JOURNAL (AGES 8-11)

### Idea Development - Does the logbook show how the idea evolved or changed over time?

- 5: Shows clear development and improvements in ideas. Fantastic work!
- 4: You've shown good progress in developing your idea! Can you explore even more ways to improve it?
- 3: Great start! Your logbook shows your idea, but adding more about how it changed over time would make it even stronger.
- 2: You're on your way! Let's think about how your idea started and grew. Try writing or drawing about changes you made or new things you tried.
- 1: It's great that you've recorded your idea! How did your idea grow, change or improve as you worked?

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### Use of Visuals - 5: Are drawings, diagrams, or models used to explain ideas clearly?

- 5: Excellent, detailed visuals that help explain the idea. Wonderful effort!
- 4: Your visuals are clear and helpful! Adding a few more details could make them even better.
- 3: Good job using visuals! To make your ideas even clearer, try adding more drawings or labels to explain your thinking.
- 2: Nice try! You have some visuals. Add more or make them clearer to help show your ideas better.
- 1: Good start! Add drawings, diagrams, or models to help others understand your ideas even more.

---

### Problem-Solving & Challenges - Does the logbook show an understanding of problems and solutions?

- 5: Clearly explains problems and solutions with insight. Amazing work!
- 4: Great effort addressing problems and solutions! Add more about how you solved challenges to make your work even stronger.
- 3: Awesome start in identifying problems and trying solutions. Explain what worked or what you learned.
- 2: It's great that you're noticing problems! Show how you solved them or what you might try next time.
- 1: Thinking about challenges is the first step. Can you add ideas about how you solved a problem or what you learned along the way?

---

### Details and Explanation - Does the logbook provide detailed explanations and thoughts on the process?

- 5: Very detailed and thorough explanations. Excellent work!
- 4: Your explanations are thoughtful and clear! Add a bit more detail to make your process easier to follow.
- 3: Nice job including some details! Make it even better by explaining more about what you did and why.
- 2: Good start! Let's add more thoughts about your process to help others see your great work.
- 1: You've started sharing your work! Add more about what you did, how you did it, or what you learned?

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### Creativity in Solutions - Did the student show creative solutions or ideas?

- 5: Very creative and original solutions. Amazing work!
- 4: Your solutions show creative thinking! Push your ideas further to make them even more unique?
- 3: Nice job showing some creative thinking. What would make your solution more exciting or different?
- 2: You're off to a great start! Try exploring new or unusual ideas to make your work stand out even more.
- 1: Your work is full of potential! Think of a fun, unique way to solve your challenge or share your ideas?



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## GRADES 3-5 INNOVATORS 6-SLIDE PRESENTATION DECK (AGES 8-11)

**Organization and Clarity** - Does the presentation flow logically and explain the project clearly?

- 5: Outstanding! Your slides are well-organized, easy to follow, and tell a great story.
- 4: Strong work! Your slides are clear. Adding more flow between sections would make them even better.
- 3: Good effort! Your slides are coming together. Try making the sections connect more clearly.
- 2: Nice start! Let's work on organizing your slides so they flow like a story.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you make your slides easier to follow by improving their order or labels?

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**Creativity and Visual Appeal** - Are the slides visually engaging and creative?

- 5: Excellent! Your slides are visually exciting and keep the audience interested.
- 4: Strong effort! Your slides are creative. Adding a bit more color or variety could enhance them further.
- 3: Nice job! Your slides look good. Try making them more colorful or dynamic.
- 2: Good try! Let's add more design elements to make your slides stand out.
- 1: Great start! Adding visuals or designs could make your slides more engaging.

---

**Problem and Solution Explanation** - Do the slides explain the problem and how the idea addresses it?

- 5: Excellent! The problem and solution are clearly explained with great examples.
- 4: Strong work! The problem and solution are clear. Adding more details about their importance will help.
- 3: Nice effort! You explained the problem and solution. Try making them easier to understand.
- 2: Good start! Let's focus on explaining why your solution is helpful for the problem.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you tell us more about how your idea solves the problem?

---

**Use of Images and Supporting Details** - Do the slides include images and examples that enhance understanding?

- 5: Amazing! Your visuals and examples make your project easy to understand and exciting to see.
- 4: Great effort! Your images are helpful. Adding more variety or examples could enhance them.
- 3: Nice job! You've included images. Try using more to explain your project further.
- 2: Good try! Let's add more visuals to show your idea clearly.
- 1: Great start! Can you add pictures or examples to better illustrate your project?

---

**Overall Presentation Quality** - Do the slides reflect effort, enthusiasm, and a polished presentation?

- 5: Fantastic! Your slides are professional, enthusiastic, and show great effort.
- 4: Strong work! Your slides are well-done. Add a bit more polish or detail to make them even better.
- 3: Nice effort! Your slides are good. Try making them more engaging or detailed.
- 2: Good start! Let's add more excitement and polish to make your slides stand out.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you make your slides show how excited you are about your project?





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## GRADES 3-5 INNOVATORS LIVE PRESENTATION (AGES 8-11)

**Clarity and Confidence** - Did the presenter speak clearly and with confidence?

- 5: Outstanding! You spoke clearly, confidently, and kept the audience engaged.
- 4: Strong work! You were clear and confident. Adding more enthusiasm would make it even stronger.
- 3: Good effort! You spoke well. Try practicing to sound even more confident.
- 2: Nice start! Let's practice speaking clearly and with more confidence.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you practice speaking louder and more confidently?

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**Problem and Solution Explanation** - Did the presenter explain the problem and solution in detail?

- 5: Excellent! The problem and solution were explained clearly and with great detail.
- 4: Strong work! The explanation was clear. Add more on why the problem matters to make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! You explained the problem and solution. Try including more details.
- 2: Nice start! Let's focus on explaining why the problem matters and how your solution helps.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you add more about the problem and how your idea solves it?

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**Visuals and Demonstrations** - Did the presenter use visuals or demonstrations effectively?

- 5: Excellent! Your visuals and demonstrations made your idea easy to understand.
- 4: Strong work! Your visuals are helpful. Adding more examples or detail could make them even stronger.
- 3: Good effort! You included visuals. Try using them to show more about your idea.
- 2: Nice start! Let's add visuals or demonstrations to make your presentation clearer.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you add something to help us see how your idea works?

---

**Engagement and Energy** - Did the presenter engage the audience and show enthusiasm?

- 5: Incredible! Your energy and enthusiasm made your presentation exciting to watch.
- 4: Strong work! You were engaging. Adding more excitement could make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! You kept us interested. Try showing more enthusiasm for your idea.
- 2: Nice start! Let's practice being more excited about your idea.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you show us how excited you are about your project?

---

**Overall Presentation** - Was the presentation complete, organized, and easy to follow?

- 5: Fantastic! Your presentation was thorough, clear, and well-organized.
- 4: Strong work! Your presentation was good. Adding more details or structure could make it even stronger.
- 3: Good effort! Your presentation is coming together. Try focusing on organization.
- 2: Nice start! Let's practice making your presentation more complete and organized.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you add more to your presentation to make it easier to follow?



## EVALUATION CRITERIA - GRADE BAND 6-8 (AGES 12-14)

The Judges will be using the criteria below for evaluating the innovative work. You should make sure that through your presentation and supporting materials you address all of the criteria. Note: Presenting teams will be evaluated based on the age of the oldest member of the team. Example – If a Team is made up of a 6-year old and 10-year old, the team will be judged at the 10-year old level.

### GRADES 6-8 INNOVATORS PITCH VIDEO (AGES 12-14)

**Strong Opening** - Does the video start with an attention-grabbing statement or question?

- 5: Excellent! Your opening grabs attention and sets the stage for an engaging pitch.
- 4: Strong work! Your opening is interesting. Can you make it even more exciting or unexpected?
- 3: Nice effort! Your opening works. Using a bold statement or intriguing question will draw viewers in.
- 2: Good start! Add a hook for the audience - use a fun fact, bold statement, or compelling question.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you rework your opening to grab attention right away?

**Problem Explanation** - Does the video clearly explain the problem the innovation addresses?

- 5: Outstanding! You clearly explain the problem in a way that anyone can relate to and understand.
- 4: Great job! The problem is clear. Adding why it's significant would make it even stronger.
- 3: Nice work! You explained the problem. Try focusing on why solving it is important.
- 2: Good effort! Let's practice making the problem more relatable and easier to understand.
- 1: You're on your way. Can you tell us more about why solving this problem matters?

**Solution Presentation** - Does the video introduce the solution clearly and concisely?

- 5: Fantastic! Your solution is explained clearly and highlights why it's effective and unique.
- 4: Great job explaining your solution. Add more about what makes it stand out to make it even better.
- 3: Nice work introducing your solution! Explain more about how it works or what makes it special.
- 2: Good start! Let's work on explaining your solution so it's easy to understand and exciting.
- 1: Great effort! Can you share more about what your solution does and why it's effective?

**Use of Visuals** - Does the video effectively use visuals or demonstrations to explain the innovation?

- 5: Excellent! Your visuals perfectly illustrate your idea and make it easy to understand.
- 4: Strong work! Your visuals are clear. Add a bit more detail or a demo to make them even better.
- 3: Nice job! Your visuals help explain your idea. Try making them more engaging or detailed.
- 2: Good effort! Let's add more visuals or make existing ones clearer to explain your idea better.
- 1: Great start! Add a demonstration or visuals to make your pitch more understandable and compelling.

**Delivery and Confidence** - Does the presenter communicate confidently and engage the viewer?

- 5: Fantastic! Your confidence and enthusiasm make your pitch captivating and professional.
- 4: Great job! You're confident. Try adding more energy or emotion to keep the audience engaged.
- 3: Nice effort! You're doing well. Practice speaking with more clarity and enthusiasm.
- 2: Good start! Let's practice speaking more confidently and with energy to engage viewers.
- 1: You're on your way! Can you show us how excited and proud you are about your idea?



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## GRADES 6-8 INNOVATORS LOGBOOK/JOURNAL (AGES 12-14)

### **Innovative Thinking - Does the logbook showcase new, innovative ideas and solutions?**

- 5: Your ideas are highly original and creative! Amazing work pushing boundaries.
- 4: Great job showcasing new ideas! Can you think of ways to make them even more unique?
- 3: Nice start! You're using solid ideas. Try building on them to make them more innovative.
- 2: You've got a good foundation! Let's explore ways to make your ideas stand out more.
- 1: Your effort is appreciated! Can you brainstorm new ideas or try a different approach to solving the problem?

---

### **Process Documentation - Does the logbook clearly document the process, including successes and setbacks?**

- 5: Excellent job documenting every step of your process! Your details make it easy to follow.
- 4: Great work recording your process! Look for areas to add more detail to make it even stronger.
- 3: Good effort! Your process is coming together, try filling in any gaps to make it more complete.
- 2: Nice start! You've noted some steps. Add more detail about how you got there and what you learned.
- 1: Great beginning! Start adding steps or tasks from your work to help tell the full story of your process.

---

### **Technical Understanding - Does the student demonstrate an understanding of technical concepts relevant to the invention?**

- 5: Fantastic! Your deep understanding of technical concepts shines through.
- 4: Strong understanding! Adding a bit more explanation of certain concepts could make it even clearer.
- 3: Nice work! You're on the right track. Try explaining more about how technical parts work.
- 2: Good beginning! Let's focus on learning and sharing more about the technical details.
- 1: Every great project starts with learning. Try exploring more technical ideas and writing about them in your logbook.

---

### **Prototyping and Testing - Did the student test their ideas or create prototypes, and document results?**

- 5: Excellent job testing your ideas and showing clear results! Your logbook is thorough and thoughtful.
- 4: Great effort! You tested and documented your work, adding more detail about your testing process would make it even better.
- 3: Nice start! Your prototyping is coming along. Can you include more about what you tested and learned?
- 2: You've taken the first steps! Let's add more about what you built, tested, and how it worked.
- 1: Good beginning. Can you try building or testing something and sharing what you find out?

---

### **Reflection and Improvements - Does the logbook reflect on changes made to improve the idea?**

- 5: Excellent reflections! You've shown a clear path of learning and improvement.
- 4: Great work thinking about your project! Adding more about how changes helped to make it stronger.
- 3: You've shared some reflections. Try focusing on what you learned and how it made your project better.
- 2: Nice effort! Let's add more about what you might do differently or what you've improved.
- 1: Every project is a chance to grow. Start by sharing what you learned and what to change next time!



---

## GRADES 6-8 6-SLIDE PRESENTATION DECK (AGES 12-14)

**Organization and Flow** - Does the presentation flow logically and effectively communicate the project?

- 5: Outstanding! Your slides are organized perfectly, with each section building to tell a clear story.
- 4: Strong work! Your slides are clear. Add more transitions between sections to make the flow smoother.
- 3: Nice effort! Your slides are informative. Try arranging them to create a stronger narrative.
- 2: Good start! Let's work on organizing your slides to better guide the audience through your project.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you improve the order of your slides to make your story easier to follow?

---

**Visual Design and Engagement** - Are the slides visually engaging and thoughtfully designed?

- 5: Excellent! Your slides are visually compelling, creative, and enhance understanding of your project.
- 4: Great effort! Your slides are visually appealing. Add more variety in design to elevate them further.
- 3: Nice work! Your slides include visuals. Try using them more dynamically to capture attention.
- 2: Good try! Let's focus on adding design elements to make your slides more engaging.
- 1: Great start! Adding more visuals or design elements could make your presentation stand out.

---

**Problem and Solution Explanation** - Do the slides clearly explain the problem and how the solution addresses it?

- 5: Outstanding! The problem is explained with depth and clarity, and the solution is presented effectively.
- 4: Strong work! Your explanation is clear. Add more details about the significance of the problem to make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! The problem and solution are outlined. Try expanding on why the problem matters and how your solution stands out.
- 2: Nice start! Let's focus on explaining why the problem is important and how your idea solves it.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you add more detail about the problem and how your solution works?

---

**Use of Supporting Details** - Do the slides effectively use images, data, and examples to enhance understanding?

- 5: Incredible! Your visuals, data, and examples make the presentation clear, engaging, and informative.
- 4: Strong effort! Your visuals and details are helpful. Add more specific examples or data to strengthen them.
- 3: Nice job! You've included visuals and details. Explain how they directly support your main points.
- 2: Good try! Let's add more visuals, data, or examples to make your presentation more complete.
- 1: Great start! Adding charts, images, or examples could make your ideas easier to understand.

---

**Overall Professionalism and Presentation** - Do the slides reflect professionalism and effort?

- 5: Fantastic! Your slides are polished, professional, and reflect a high level of effort.
- 4: Strong work! Your slides are well-done. Refining a few areas could make them even more professional.
- 3: Nice effort! Your slides are good. Try improving layout and polish for a more professional finish.
- 2: Good start! Let's work on making your slides neater and more polished to impress your audience.
- 1: Great beginning! Add organization and clean formatting to enhance the professionalism of your slides.



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## GRADES 6-8 INNOVATORS LIVE PRESENTATION (AGES 12-14)

### Clarity and Confidence - Did the presenter speak clearly and confidently?

- 5: Outstanding! You spoke clearly and confidently, keeping the audience engaged throughout.
- 4: Strong effort! You spoke well. Adding more energy or emphasis could make your delivery even stronger.
- 3: Good job! Your presentation is clear. Try speaking more confidently or with more enthusiasm.
- 2: Nice start! Let's practice speaking more clearly and confidently to convey your ideas better.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you work on speaking louder and with more assurance?

---

### Problem and Solution Explanation - Did the presenter explain the problem and how their solution addresses it?

- 5: Excellent! You thoroughly explained the problem and your solution with depth and clarity.
- 4: Strong work! Your explanation is clear. Adding more details about why the problem matters could make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! The problem and solution are outlined. Try expanding on how your solution stands out.
- 2: Nice start! Let's practice explaining why the problem is significant and how your solution works.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you add more about how your idea solves the problem?

---

### Visuals and Demonstrations - Did the presenter use visuals or demonstrations effectively?

- 5: Fantastic! Your visuals and demonstrations are clear, engaging, adding great value to your presentation.
- 4: Strong work! Your visuals are helpful. Adding more examples or refinement could enhance them further.
- 3: Nice job! You used visuals. Try focusing on how they can better support your main points.
- 2: Good try! Let's include more visuals or demonstrations to make your presentation more complete.
- 1: Good start! Can you add more engaging visuals or a demonstration to support your idea?

---

### Engagement and Energy - Did the presenter engage the audience and demonstrate enthusiasm for their project?

- 5: Incredible! Your enthusiasm and energy made your presentation captivating and memorable.
- 4: Strong effort! You kept the audience engaged. Adding even more passion could make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! You were engaging. Try showing more excitement to captivate your audience further.
- 2: Nice start! Let's practice bringing more energy and enthusiasm to your presentation.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you show us more excitement and pride in your work?

---

### Overall Presentation - Was the presentation complete, organized, and professional?

- 5: Outstanding! Your presentation was polished, thorough, and highly professional.
- 4: Strong work! Your presentation is clear. Adding more structure or refinement could make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! Your presentation is well done. Try focusing on better organization or polish.
- 2: Nice start! Let's refine your presentation to make it more organized and professional.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you make your presentation more complete and polished?





## EVALUATION CRITERIA - GRADE BAND 9-12 (AGES 15-18)

The Judges will be using the criteria below for evaluating the innovative work. You should make sure that through your presentation and supporting materials you address all of the criteria. Note: Presenting teams will be evaluated based on the age of the oldest member of the team. Example – If a Team is made up of a 6-year old and 10-year old, the team will be judged at the 10-year old level.

### GRADES 9-12 INNOVATORS PITCH VIDEO (AGES 15-18)

**Strong Opening** - Does the video begin with a compelling hook to grab attention?

- 5: Excellent! Your opening is bold, engaging, and immediately grabs attention.
- 4: Strong start! Your opening is interesting. Add more creativity or urgency to make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! Your opening works. Using a surprising fact or powerful statement will draw viewers in.
- 2: Nice try! Let's brainstorm a way to make the opening more attention-grabbing.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you refine your opening to hook viewers right away?

**Clear Problem Explanation** - Does the video articulate the problem being addressed effectively?

- 5: Outstanding! The problem is explained clearly and its significance is compelling.
- 4: Strong work on the problem. Add a bit more detail about its importance to strengthen your pitch.
- 3: Good job outlining the problem. Try connecting it more deeply to the audience's concerns/interests.
- 2: Nice effort! Let's focus on explaining why solving this problem matters to people.
- 1: You're on your way. Can you elaborate on why the problem is important to solve?

**Solution Presentation** - Does the video effectively present the innovation and its benefits?

- 5: Excellent! Your solution is explained clearly and concisely, and its value is evident.
- 4: Great job presenting your solution. Add more about its unique advantages to make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! You've introduced your solution. Try elaborating on how it works and its impact.
- 2: Nice start! Let's focus on presenting your solution in a way that's easy to understand and exciting.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you share more about your solution and why it's effective?

**Use of Visuals** - Does the video make effective use of visuals or demonstrations?

- 5: Incredible! Your visuals and demonstrations enhance the pitch so it is engaging and easy to follow.
- 4: Strong work on your visuals. Adding more detail or dynamic elements will make them even stronger.
- 3: Nice effort! Your visuals support your idea. Try refining or adding more to make them stand out.
- 2: Good try! Let's add visuals or demonstrations to help explain your innovation better.
- 1: Great start! Adding engaging visuals or a demo will make your pitch more impactful.

**Professionalism and Confidence** - Is the video polished, and does the presenter appear confident and professional?

- 5: Outstanding! Your delivery is polished, professional, and engaging. Excellent work!
- 4: Strong job! Your delivery is confident. Add more polish or emphasis on key points taking up a level.
- 3: Good effort! You present well. Speak with more authority or energy to keep viewers engaged.
- 2: Nice try! Let's practice speaking with more confidence and polish to enhance your delivery.
- 1: You're on your way! Can you show us your enthusiasm and professionalism in your pitch?



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## GRADES 9-12 INNOVATORS LOGBOOK/JOURNAL (AGES 15-18)

### **Originality and Innovation** - Does the logbook show an original approach to solving the problem?

- 5: Incredible work! Your idea is groundbreaking and truly stands out.
- 4: Great originality! With a bit more exploration, it could become even more disruptive.
- 3: Good start! Your idea is solid. Try building on it to make it more unique or surprising.
- 2: You've taken the first step! Let's think about ways to make your solution more original or inventive.
- 1: Every idea has value. Try exploring new angles or approaches to make it stand out even more.

---

### **Complexity & Technical Depth** - How complex and technically advanced is the idea?

- 5: Outstanding! Your idea shows deep technical understanding and complexity.
- 4: Great work! Adding more depth in some areas could make your technical approach even stronger.
- 3: Nice effort! Your idea is developing. Try diving deeper into the technical details to show how it works.
- 2: You've got a good start! Let's explore more technical aspects to make your idea more detailed.
- 1: Keep going! Adding complexity or technical ideas will help bring your project to life.

---

### **Design & Prototyping Process** - Does the logbook showcase a well-documented design and prototyping process?

- 5: Incredible detail! Your design process and multiple iterations are so well-documented.
- 4: Great work showing your design! Fill in a few gaps or add more iterations to make it even stronger.
- 3: Good start! You've documented your process. Try adding more about how you improved your design.
- 2: Nice effort! Let's add more about what you built, tested, or changed to make it clearer.
- 1: You're off to a great start. Document each step of your design process to show your hard work.

---

### **Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving** - Does the logbook show the student's ability to think critically about challenges and solutions?

- 5: Excellent problem-solving! Your logbook shows how you tackled challenges with creativity and insight.
- 4: Great effort! You've solved problems. Add more about other possible solutions to make it even better.
- 3: Nice start! You've addressed some challenges. Try thinking of more ways to solve or improve them.
- 2: Good try! Let's focus on identifying challenges and thinking of creative ways to solve them.
- 1: Every project starts somewhere. Write about any challenges you faced and how you approached them.

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### **Professionalism & Communication** - Is the logbook presented in a professional, well-organized manner?

- 5: Extremely professional and polished. Excellent work!
- 4: Very good presentation! A few small improvements could make it even more polished.
- 3: Good effort! Organizing your work a bit more would make your logbook easier to follow.
- 2: Nice start! Work on making your logbook clearer, more organized and easier for others to understand.
- 1: Great beginning! Try focusing on neatness and structure to make your presentation shine.



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## GRADES 9-12 INNOVATORS 6-SLIDE PRESENTATION DECK (AGES 15-18)

**Organization and Flow** - Does the presentation flow logically and effectively communicate the project?

- 5: Exceptional! Your slides are perfectly structured, with a clear and logical progression that tells a compelling story.
- 4: Strong work organizing your slides. Add transitions or connections between points to enhance flow.
- 3: Nice effort! Your slides are clear. Try arranging them to create a stronger and more engaging narrative.
- 2: Good start! Let's focus on organizing your slides to better communicate the key points of your project.
- 1: Great beginning! Improving the structure of your slides could help tell your story more effectively.

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**Visual Design and Engagement** - Are the slides visually engaging and professional?

- 5: Excellent! Your slides are visually polished, professional, and enhance the presentation.
- 4: Strong effort! Your slides are engaging. Add more dynamic design elements to improve them further.
- 3: Nice work adding visuals to your slides! Improve the layout or add creative elements to make them more compelling.
- 2: Good try! Let's refine the design and add visual elements to enhance the overall impact of your slides.
- 1: Great start! Adding professional design elements and visuals could make your slides more effective.

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**Problem and Solution Depth** - Do the slides provide a detailed and impactful explanation of the problem and solution?

- 5: Exceptional! Your problem explanation was eloquent, and the solution presented with depth and clarity.
- 4: Strong work! The problem and solution are clear. Add more context or depth to make them even better.
- 3: Good effort outlining the problem and solution! Expand on why the problem is critical and how your solution excels.
- 2: Nice start! Let's focus on explaining why the problem matters and how your solution uniquely solves it.
- 1: Great beginning! Can you elaborate on the problem and provide more details about your solution?

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**Use of Data and Supporting Evidence** - Do the slides include relevant data, images, or examples to support the project?

- 5: Incredible! Your slides use data, images, and examples build a strong and convincing presentation.
- 4: Strong work on your visuals and data. Add more specific or impactful details to make them stronger.
- 3: Nice job including supporting elements. Work on making them more directly relevant to your key points.
- 2: Good try! Let's add more data, images, or examples to strengthen your arguments and explanations.
- 1: Great start! Adding detailed evidence or visuals could make your project more convincing and engaging.

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**Professionalism and Delivery** - Do the slides reflect a professional and polished presentation?

- 5: Outstanding! Your slides are highly professional, well-designed, and demonstrate exceptional effort.
- 4: Strong effort! Your slides are polished. Refining small details could make them even more impressive.
- 3: Nice work! Your slides are professional. Try improving the layout and presentation for greater impact.
- 2: Good start! Let's refine the design and organization to make your slides more polished and professional.
- 1: Great beginning! Improving neatness, layout, and overall design could make your slides stand out.



**GRADES 9-12 INNOVATORS LIVE PRESENTATION (AGES 15-18)**

**Clarity and Confidence** - Did the presenter speak clearly, confidently, and professionally?

- 5: Exceptional! You spoke clearly, confidently, and professionally while holding the audience’s attention.
- 4: Strong work! Your delivery is clear and confident. Add more energy or emphasis to make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! Your delivery is clear. Try practicing to sound more confident and polished.
- 2: Nice start! Let’s focus on speaking with more authority and clarity to convey your ideas strongly.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you work on speaking louder and with more confidence?

**Problem and Solution Depth** - Did the presenter effectively explain the problem and the solution with depth?

- 5: Outstanding! The problem and solution are explained with clarity, depth, and relevance.
- 4: Strong effort! Your explanation is clear. Add more details about the problem’s importance to enhance it.
- 3: Good job! The problem and solution are outlined. Try expanding on how your solution is unique.
- 2: Nice start! Let’s focus on explaining why the problem matters and how your solution is innovative.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you add more detail about the problem and how your solution works?

**Use of Visuals and Supporting Evidence** - Did the presenter use visuals, data, or demonstrations to support their project?

- 5: Exceptional! Your visuals, data, and demonstrations clearly support your project and make it engaging.
- 4: Strong work! Your visuals and evidence are helpful. Add more examples or data to make it even better.
- 3: Good effort! You used visuals and data. Try refining them to better support your key points.
- 2: Nice start! Let’s add more visuals, data, or demonstrations to clarify and enhance your presentation.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you include more visuals or examples to better illustrate your idea?

**Engagement and Audience Interaction** - Did the presenter engage the audience and maintain their interest?

- 5: Incredible! Your presentation was engaging, energetic, and kept the audience interested throughout.
- 4: Strong work! You were engaging. Adding more interaction or passion could make it even better.
- 3: Good job! You kept us interested. Try showing more excitement or involving the audience.
- 2: Nice start! Let’s practice bringing more energy and interaction to your presentation.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you show us more excitement and connect with your audience?

**Overall Professionalism and Delivery** - Was the presentation polished, professional, and impactful?

- 5: Outstanding! Your presentation was highly professional, polished, and left a strong impression.
- 4: Strong work! Your presentation is professional. Adding more refinement could enhance its impact.
- 3: Good effort! Your presentation is clear. Try focusing on improving polish and delivery for a stronger impact.
- 2: Nice start! Let’s refine your presentation to make it more professional and polished.
- 1: Good beginning! Can you focus on making your presentation more organized and impactful?



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you do not see an answer to your question below, please email [info@innovationworld.org](mailto:info@innovationworld.org).



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### Q: AM I ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO INNOVATION CHALLENGE (OIC)?

A: The OIC is open to Ohio students enrolled in private, public, charter, virtual school or homeschool from grades K-12 (or equivalent). *See Eligibility Requirements on page 4.* Students from outside of Ohio may participate on a team where at least one member of the team resides in Ohio.

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### Q: WHEN DOES REGISTRATION OPEN AND CLOSE?

A: Registration for OIC 2025 opens on February 1, 2025 and closes on April 26, 2025.

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### Q: MAY WE ENTER AS A TEAM?

A: A team of up to three students can participate in the competition. By using the grade of the oldest team representative, your team will be judged against other teams as well as individual inventors. You may participate as an individual or as part of a team, but not in both categories. *See Eligibility Requirements and Team Requirements 4.*

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### Q: HOW DO WE REGISTER A TEAM?

A: One member of the team will register all of the team members at the same time as well as uploading the required files. Please make sure that you have all of the information about all of the team members and the files ready. You will NOT be able to partially register and then finish the registration later. Use this link to beginning at 9AM Eastern on 1 February, 2025: [https://innovationworld.org/oic\\_registration/](https://innovationworld.org/oic_registration/)

*See Register for the OIC before April 26 on page 7.*

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### Q: IS THERE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF THE INNOVATION TITLE?

A: Yes, the innovation title should be short and engaging, with a maximum of six words. If your title exceeds this limit, try to condense it while maintaining clarity.

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### Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PITCH VIDEO IS LONGER THAN 60 SECONDS OR THE PRESENTATION EXCEEDS 6 PAGES?

A: The judges have been instructed not to watch anything beyond 60 seconds or read anything after 6 pages. So, if your video is longer than 60 seconds the judges will not see it all.

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### Q: THERE ARE 3 MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM. DO ALL 3 HAVE TO BE PART OF THE VIDEO PITCH AND THE LIVE GIFT PRESENTATION IF WE ARE SELECTED AS FINALISTS?

A: Our expectation is that all of your teammates played a role in your video, whether on-screen, editing, producing etc. It is not required, but it is always a nice touch to end your pitch video with credits an acknowledgements, sharing who did what and thanking supporters.



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**Q: I HAVE 2 GREAT INNOVATION IDEAS. CAN I PRESENT BOTH OF THEM AT OIC?**

A: You can only present one innovation at OIC. We would love for you to present your second idea next year!

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**Q: IS THERE A SPECIFIC FORMAT FOR THE NAMES OF STUDENTS AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE WRITTEN AT REGISTRATION?**

A: There is a lot of variety in the ways people around the world write their names, so we will use the names you give us at registration, in the format you provide them. If you input the names all in lower case or all in uppercase or a mix of cases, that is how it will appear on the certificate, so make sure you enter the student names the way you would like to see them on the certificate.

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**Q: IS IT IMPORTANT TO SHOW MYSELF IN 60 SECOND PITCH VIDEO OR I CAN ANIMATE AND EDIT IT TO EXPLAIN MY INNOVATION IDEA?**

A: The purpose of the video is to give the judges in the off-line Round 1 more information about your innovation than they would get by just reading about it and get them excited to learn more about your innovation. So, with that purpose in mind, you do not have to physically appear in the video.

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**Q: DO I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE AFTER I HAVE REGISTERED FOR OIC AND GOTTEN THE REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION?**

A: If you are officially registered for OIC, there is nothing that you need to do right now. As we get closer to the registration deadline, we will be sending all of the registered students, including yourself, more information about the schedule and what you will be doing at each part of the program.

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**Q: HOW DO I KNOW IF MY REGISTRATION IS COMPLETE?**

A: You will receive an email with final information confirming your entry. If you do not see your confirmation, then please check your SPAM folder. If you still do not see your confirmation, please write to [info@innovationworld.org](mailto:info@innovationworld.org) with your name, and the title of your project.

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**Q: CAN I MAKE CHANGES TO MY REGISTRATION ONCE I HAVE SENT IT IN?**

A: No. Registrations may not be edited. If you feel you have an important update and the registration deadline has not passed, contact [info@innovationworld.org](mailto:info@innovationworld.org) before the deadline to explore options.

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**Q: WHAT HAPPENS AT A LIVE PRESENTATION SESSION?**

A: There are up to 5 projects, peer innovators and a moderator at each 60-minute session. Each student or team gives a 3-minute live presentation (using their PowerPoint, PDF file if they would like). After this, 3-5 additional minutes are used for questions and positive comments from peer innovators.

Post-event all sessions of the Live Presentation Round will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will make recommendations for Top Innovator and Top Collaborator recognition.





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**Q: DO I NEED TO PREPARE EVERYTHING BY MYSELF?**

A: Yes, you (and/or your team) are responsible for preparing all of your content. However, if you got help from any external source, including a teacher, parent or friend, you must acknowledge the help you received. For example, maybe you needed assistance in creating a PowerPoint presentation, or a blueprint or you got advice on how to wire a circuit and so on. This acknowledgement must be noted in your live presentation as well as your journal.

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**Q: IS MY LOGBOOK/JOURNAL/DIARY IMPORTANT?**

A: Innovation is NOT a sudden one-minute event, but rather a long process of work, experimentation, evaluation and redesign. The Logbook/Journal/Diary is the documentation and story of your journey in that process and it is very important that you are able to show people what you did and why you did it.

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**Q: DO I HAVE TO USE POWERPOINT TO CREATE THE PRESENTATION?**

A: No. You may create slides using Keynote, Google Slides, WPS, Prezi, or other programs, but you must convert them to PPTX or PDF format before submission.

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**Q: MAY I USE AI IN MY RESEARCH AND PRESENTATION?**

A: This is meant to be YOUR innovation. You may use AI to help in some research aspects, but the actual design and creation of the innovation and the presentation about it are supposed to be your work and your work alone. You must acknowledge the help you received from using AI and it must be noted in your live presentation as well as your journal.

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**Q: HOW CAN I MAKE SURE THE JUDGES OR HOSTS CAN OPERATE MY UPLOADED FILE/S?**

A: Judges will be able to open and operate files uploaded as PPTX or PDF. Do NOT use any other format or website links.

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**Q: HOW DO I PROTECT MY IP – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?**

A: PROTECTING YOUR INNOVATION - It is sole responsibility of the creator(s) of their Innovation to determine whether their innovation requires protection, what type of protection it may require. It is the sole responsibility of the creator to contact the appropriate legal professionals to secure any or all protection they deem necessary.

**Intellectual Property Concerns** - Anytime you decide to share your idea or innovation, if you have a scientific discovery or invention that could lead to a Patent or any other intellectual property protections, it is best to check your country's patent law before publicly sharing your idea. It is important to understand the intellectual property laws in your country if you have any plans to bring your product to market in the future. When presenting, be cautious about sharing the specific details of what you made and focus on sharing the general operation and benefits of your product.

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**Q: WHAT DO I NEED TO INCLUDE IN MY PRESENTATION SLIDES?**

A: The slides should highlight key points of the innovation process of your innovation. You have 3 minutes to make your presentation and may use no more than 6 slides. *See 6-Slide/Page Presentation on page 11.*

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**Q: WHAT ARE THE JUDGING CRITERIA?**

A: *See Evaluation Criteria Based on Grade Band beginning on page 17.*



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**WHEN IS THE AWARD CEREMONY?**

A: The Ohio Innovation Challenge Award Ceremony will be held live on Zoom on Sunday, June 1. Everyone around the world is invited to watch this live exciting celebration of student innovation. The link for the celebration will be emailed to all participants prior to the celebration and posted on this page:

<https://innovationworld.org/ohio-innovation-challenge/>

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**IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:**

[\*\*INFO@INNOVATIONWORLD.ORG\*\*](mailto:INFO@INNOVATIONWORLD.ORG)



# PARTICIPANT AGREEMENTS AND GUIDELINES

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## HONEST COMMUNICATION

- Follow the Code of Civility.
- Be accurate (where they state facts).
- Be genuinely held (where they state opinions).
- Be in compliance with applicable law in any country from which they are posted.
- Respect Yourself and Others.

We require that all OIC participants treat other people with respect. Any use of Communication Services (see the Code of Civility) to threaten, harass, stalk, or abuse others using these services is unacceptable and is strictly forbidden.

We reserve the right to remove content that promotes violence, bullying, discrimination, or illegal activity. This includes content that is deemed inappropriate, offensive, or that violates guidelines in the Terms of Service or the Code of Civility. Falsely impersonating a OIC employee, agent, manager, host, or any other person other than yourself, is forbidden.

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## PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

We caution you against sharing unnecessary personally identifiable information during the Zoom challenge (such as home address or personal contact information), which may be inadvertently obtained by others or, in rare instances, used for illegal or harmful purposes. Talk to your coach, parent or the OIC staff if you have a question or concern.

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## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The OIC continuously addresses issues of diversity and multiculturalism and is committed to engaging in actions that create inclusive communities, increased diversity, and the elimination of discrimination. The OIC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, and gender identity or expression in all of its programs and activities.

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## CODE OF CIVILITY

As part of our commitment to making the OIC and its related social media channels a great place to meet and interact with others who have a passion and commitment to science, technology, engineering, math, innovation and entrepreneurship, you agree to abide by this Code of Civility. By participating on the Site and social media community, you give your commitment to abide by this Code when contributing to all OIC resources and programs, including, but not limited to, profiles, team pages, chats, posts and comments, emails, social media sources, etc. ("Communication Services"), and to help create a positive experience for all the community's users. We reserve the right in our sole discretion to eject or ban any user from participating in the Ohio Innovation Challenge (OIC), the Site or social media community who behaves in a manner deemed inappropriate or offensive, or who violates the guidelines of this Code of Civility. The OIC and its partners and service providers are not responsible for any user-created content or other activities.

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## PROTECTING YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Creators are responsible for determining the necessary protections for their innovations and consulting legal professionals as needed.

Anytime you decide to share your idea or innovation, if you have a scientific discovery or invention that could lead to a Patent or any other intellectual property protections, it is best to check your country's patent law before publicly sharing your idea. It is important to understand the intellectual property laws in your country if you have any plans to bring your product to market in the future. When presenting, be cautious about sharing the specific details of what you made and focus on sharing the general operation and benefits of your product.



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## RELEASE AGREEMENT

By registering your child, you grant permission for your child to take part in the Ohio Innovation Challenge and verify agreement with the following Innovation World photography/filming release: Without expectation of compensation or other remuneration of any kind, now or in the future, on behalf of my registered student, I as guardian do hereby give consent, permission, and authorization to Innovation World, including its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, and agents, to use their name, image and likeness, including all rights, title and interest therein, for Innovation World's use in whatever form (digital, web-based, hard-print or otherwise) and for whatever purpose in perpetuity. Innovation World's use includes, without limitation, any advertising, video footage, recording, publication, website, radio, digital media, print media, or other promotional marketing or media activities, as well as, all film, motion picture and television rights (e.g., free television, pay television, basic cable, subscription, video-on-demand, pay-per-view, syndication, digital streaming, and all other methods of transmission delivery systems and formats). Both my registered child and I as their guardian, hereby further release Innovation World from any and all claims or disputes, including damages in any form, for libel, slander, right of publicity, invasion of right of privacy, trademark infringement or false endorsement, breach of contract, or any other tortious claim or persona right associated with Innovation World use of said name, image and likeness, and further, hereby acknowledge that Innovation World shall have no obligation to use said name, image or likeness.

This consent is given in perpetuity and does not require prior approval. By completing the online registration and paying the non-refundable registration fee, I hereby grant my child permission to participate in the Ohio Innovation Challenge (OIC) hosted by Innovation World. I have been thoroughly informed of rules and requirements of the OIC. I understand and consent to my child being in virtual contact with Innovation World employees and volunteers for the purpose of evaluating and advising my child's project. I hereby release InventFuture.Global and any of its officers, directors, employees or sponsors, from responsibility and liability for any damage, injury or illness that my child may sustain as a result of or in any way connected to my child's participation in the Ohio Innovation

Challenge and, further, waive any and all rights to assert any claims against InventFuture.Global for any damages allegedly sustained as a result of my child's participation in the Ohio Innovation Challenge.

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## BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

- I understand and agree that my child's behavior with regard to their participation in the Ohio Innovation Challenge is my responsibility. I will instruct my child in proper behavior and ensure that they respect and adhere to the Code of Conduct, which include the Participant Community Guidelines and the following:
- The content of my child's project submission in the Ohio Innovation Challenge shall be age appropriate and non-discriminatory.
- My child's Ohio Innovation Challenge project submission must be of a nature where it cannot cause harm to property, animals, my child or other children, and any other adults.
- Plagiarism—presenting someone else's work as your own—is strictly prohibited in all formats.
- In the event of (a) behavior problem(s) regarding my child's participation in the Ohio Innovation Challenge or failure to adhere to the Participant Community Guidelines, I understand that I will be contacted to correct any problem or issue. In the event a problem or issue cannot be corrected, I recognize my child will no longer be allowed to participate in the Ohio Innovation Challenge for the remainder of the event year.