



Challenge Resource

# After-School Project Timeline

## 1. What's the Problem?

Take a week to observe the world around you. Think about everyday life for you and your family. What problems or inconveniences do you encounter in your community or at school? Take notice of problems you see in the newspaper, social media, and on TV. Consider problems your friends or family complain about.

**Make a list of observations:**

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## 2. Get Inspired!

Go to [entry topics](#), read the thought starters, and look at [videos from previous finalists](#). Which video made the biggest impression on you? Why? What ideas do you have now?

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## 3. Get Some Focus!

Take a look at your list of problems, and choose your top three ideas. Consider the following:

- Most problems have a solution, but some can be solved more easily than others.
- Which problems seem the most important to help solve?
- Which topics are you the most passionate about?
- Which problem provides you with the best opportunity to use science in your solution?

List your top three problems.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Brainstorm Solutions

Now that you have narrowed down your options, it's time to give some serious thought to possible solutions. For each of the problems, try to develop at least two workable solutions. Keep in mind that judges are looking for NEW, innovative solutions.

Brainstorm ideas/solutions that will impact each problem.

**Problem 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Solution 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Solution 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Solution 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Solution 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Solution 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Solution 2: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Decision Time!

Now it is time to focus on one idea. Take a look at all of your solutions.

Which one:

- best uses scientific principles?
- would have the greatest impact on people around you?
- seems the most interesting to work on?
- seems to be the most doable?
- is the most creative and innovative?

Choose one problem and one solution. Write your choice below.

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### 6. Hit the Books and research!

Gather as much information as you can about the problem. Know your topic inside and out! Learn about any science involved in the problem and your solution. Has anyone else tried to solve the problem? What are some other solutions that have been tried? Have they worked? Why do you think your solution will work?

Keep a list of sources that you use.

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### 7. Refine your solution

Now is the time to seriously lay out the details of your solution.

**Make sure your idea:**

- does not already exist
- is doable
- is innovative
- uses science

Describe your solution in detail.

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### 8. Plan, Plan, Plan and Prep to Get the Word Out!

No one will know about your great idea unless you make a video that can capture their attention and clearly explains your problem and solution. Having a plan is the key to an engaging video.

- This is a good time to watch videos from previous finalists again. Pay attention to their pace and how they use music and graphics. How did they generate excitement? What made their explanations easy to follow?
- Write a script. Write out every word that you want to include in your video. Make sure you are communicating your ideas effectively.
- Storyboard the scenes. A storyboard is a series of drawings to show each shot or scene in a video. Use the [storyboarding guideline](#) to plan your video. Make note of when you will use music, pictures, graphics, or animation. Be sure not to use copyrighted material.

### 9. Get the Word Out—Press Record!

It is time to put your storyboard into action.

- Record and edit your video.
- Have friends and family preview your video and gather any helpful advice or feedback.
- Be sure the final video is between one and two minutes long.
- Go to [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com) and [login](#) by using your username and password. Submit your video by 11:59PM EST on May 2, 2024.

**GOOD LUCK!**