Environmental Justice (EJ) Video Challenge for Students
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **Is there a limit on the number of undergraduate/graduate students per team?**
   There is no limit on the number of undergraduate/graduate students per team. Teams with more than nine (9) students should submit additional student team member contact information on a separate sheet along with the entry form.

2. **Can students from two different colleges collaborate on one video project?**
   Yes, undergraduate or graduate students (18 years and older) enrolled in different accredited institutions of higher education (including community colleges) in the United States (or its territories) may collaborate on one video project. Teams must have at least one faculty advisor, and only one video submission is permitted per team.

3. **I graduate in Spring 2022. Am I still eligible to participate in Phase 1 of the challenge?**
   Yes, undergraduate or graduate students (18 years and older) enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education (including community colleges) in the United States (or its territories) graduating in Spring 2022 are eligible to participate in Phase 1 of the challenge.

4. **Can an individual student participate in this challenge?**
   Yes, an individual student may participate in the challenge. Students are strongly encouraged to work in teams, but it is not required. A participating student or team must have at least one (1) faculty advisor.

5. **Can international exchange students participate in Phase 1 of this challenge?**
   Yes, if international exchange students are at least 18 years old and enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or its territories, then they are eligible to participate in Phase 1 of this challenge.

6. **Are students who are currently interns, research fellows, or members with any of the co-sponsoring organizations eligible to participate in the challenge?**
   Yes, eligible undergraduate or graduate students who are interns, research fellows, or members affiliated with the co-sponsoring organizations may participate in the challenge.

7. **Can middle/high school students, non-students, or others contribute to the production, interviews, or gathering of data and information for the video?**
   Middle/high school students, non-students, or those who don't meet the eligibility requirements may contribute to a student/team's video (i.e., interviews, production, etc.) with the appropriate signed [EPA Multimedia Consent Form for use with Video, Photo(s), or Voice Recording(s)](). However, those who are middle/high school students, non-students, or don't meet the eligibility requirements are not eligible to participate as a team member and will not be eligible for prizes in this challenge.

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8. **Can middle and high school students participate in the challenge if they are working with an accredited university and faculty sponsor?**
No, middle or high school students are not eligible to participate in the challenge. Only undergraduate and graduate students (18 years and older) enrolled in accredited institutions of higher education (including community colleges) across the United States (or its territories) are eligible to be part of a challenge team.

9. **What kind of community-based organizations should students/teams work with for the challenge? How can students/teams find these organizations?**
We do not have a set definition for "community-based organization" for this challenge. Community-based organizations may include social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, and formal and informal community groups, like neighborhood groups or recreational or special-interest clubs.

10. **What constitutes a "community" for this challenge?**
We do not have a set definition as to what "community" is for this challenge. Therefore, you may define "community" in any way that makes sense for you. A community can mean different things to different people, so it is recommended that you define what you mean by "community" in your video submission.

11. **Do students need to live in the community they are interested in researching for the challenge?**
No, it is not required that students live in the community they are interested in researching for the challenge.

12. **Do we need to work with an organization in Phase 1?**
Students/teams are highly encouraged, but not required to work with a community-based organization in Phase 1. In Phase 2, students/teams will be required to work with one or more community-based organizations to inform strategies for intervention and/or facilitate effective community engagement and advocacy on the EJ issue(s).

13. **Is this challenge a grant?**
No, this challenge is not a grant. Challenges engage public solvers in prize competitions to identify innovative solutions to critical issues. These challenges are a part of the Federal government's Challenge.gov initiative where members of the public can participate to help the U.S. government solve problems and have a chance to win prizes for participating.

14. **Can students/teams have more than one faculty advisor?**
Yes, students/teams may have more than one faculty advisor.

15. **Does the faculty advisor have to be a tenure-track professor position?**
Faculty advisors do not need to be tenured or tenure-track employees. The term "faculty" is meant in a general sense; any academic staff member employed at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States (or its territories) may serve as a faculty advisor.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (continued)

16. **What is the difference between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the challenge?**
    The goal of **Phase 1** is for students to create a video to demonstrate innovative approaches to **identify and characterize** an EJ issue(s) in a select community using data and publicly available tools. Teams are highly encouraged, but not required to work with a community-based organization in Phase 1.

    In **Phase 2**, students will develop a video to display how they used data and publicly available tools to **identify strategies and opportunities to address an identified EJ issue(s).** In Phase 2, teams are required to work with one or more community-based organizations to inform strategies for intervention and/or facilitate effective community engagement and advocacy on the EJ issue(s).

17. **To participate in Phase 2, do you have to participate and/or win in Phase 1?**
    To participate in Phase 2, at least one student/team member must have participated in Phase 1 but did not need to win in Phase 1 in order to participate in Phase 2 of the challenge.

18. **If you win Phase 1, are you required to submit a video in Phase 2?**
    No. If you win in Phase 1, you are highly encouraged, but not required to submit a video in Phase 2.

19. **Is there a prize for Phase 2?**
    Yes, there are additional prizes for Phase 2. More details on Phase 2 will be provided closer to the start of Phase 2.

20. **Can teams who win in Phase 1 also win prizes in Phase 2?**
    Yes, those who win prizes in Phase 1 are eligible to participate and win prizes in Phase 2 as long as all other eligibility requirements are met.

21. **If students who participate in Phase 1 graduate before Phase 2, will they still be eligible to participate in Phase 2?**
    Students who have graduated and will not be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education (including community colleges) in the United States (or its territories) during Phase 2 of the challenge will not be eligible to participate in Phase 2.

    Students/teams who wish to participate in Phase 2 must include at least one student who participated in Phase 1.

22. **What are the length and format suggestions/requirements for the video?**
    The maximum length for the video is 6 minutes. The overall format of the video is up to the team's preference and creativity. Detailed video requirements (including video content and video specifications such as file format) can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students#enter

23. **Where can I find consent forms for people interviewed or featured in the video?**
    All required documents and forms can be found under the "Required Paperwork" section at: https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students#enter

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (continued)

24. **I missed the December 6, 2021 informational webinar. Will a recording of the webinar be posted?**
Yes, the recording will be posted at: https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students

25. **We are interested in featuring the video we produce for this challenge on our social media platforms. Would this be acceptable, or would it conflict with the intellectual property requirements of the challenge?**
Yes, it would be acceptable for you (or your school's communication team, community partner organization, etc.) to feature your video on your desired platforms at your own discretion. According to the EPA Video/Audio/Photo License Agreement, the "Licensor" (student/team) is the sole owner of the "Material" (photos, videos, audio clips, etc.), and the "Licensee" (U.S. EPA) has the right to use the Material in connection with the EJ Video Challenge for Students as well as the production, distribution, promotion, broadcast at public meetings/conferences and online posting thereof. Since the video will be used as a part of the challenge, you may want to consider the timing on sharing your video prior to versus after the announcement of the winning videos for the challenge.

26. **What will the judging panel be looking for when they are assessing whether our video contains "innovative approaches to identify and characterize an EJ issue"? Should we be using tools/data differently to better understand a well-known preexisting EJ issue, identifying new/underexplored EJ issues, proposing innovative solutions to difficult EJ issues, or something else entirely?**
Since there are a variety of EJ issues that could be identified/characterized for any given community, we are looking to the student/teams to decide and feature in the video what you consider to be innovative or creative new approaches to identify and characterize an EJ issue in your community of choice using available data/tools. This could include looking into any of the EJ issue types (e.g., preexisting, new/underexplored, or difficult) you had mentioned and showcasing in your video how you chose to identify and characterize the EJ issue(s) with data/tools.

27. **Is it possible for us to pay for video editing services to help with editing the video for the challenge?**
There are no restrictions on the use of contracting assistance for your video.

28. **For my video, is it acceptable to use footage and other materials I have recorded in previous and/or ongoing projects?**
Yes, you may use existing recordings (e.g., something recorded for a previous project) for your EJ Video Challenge for Students video submission.

29. **Are there any example videos from the past, or is this a new contest?**
This is a new challenge, so we do not have any videos to share as examples at this time.

30. **May I interview my faculty advisor for the video?**
There are no restrictions on who you interview for your video. The only requirement is you must submit a completed EPA Multimedia Consent Form for use with Video, Photo(s), or Voice Recording(s) *for each individual who appears in or contributes verbally to* your video submission.