



Environmental Justice (EJ) Video Challenge for Students Phase 2 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

GENERAL EJ VIDEO CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- 1. I missed the October 27, 2022 informational webinar about Phase 2 of the challenge. Will a recording of the webinar be posted?**

Yes, the recording of the Phase 2 informational webinar is posted on the website under *Important Dates* (<https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students#dates>).

- 2. What is the difference between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the challenge?**

The goal of Phase 1 was 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.

The goal for Phase 2 is to enhance communities' capacity to address the EJ issue(s) identified in Phase 1. Students will work collaboratively with community-based organizations to develop a proposed strategy for effective community engagement and advocacy to address the previously identified EJ issue. Phase 2 submissions should include a community capacity building strategy and a brief video summarizing the approach as well as suggestion of data/tools to track or measure the success of the proposed strategy.

- 3. If you win Phase 1, are you required to participate in Phase 2?**

No. If you won in Phase 1, you are highly encouraged but are not required to participate in Phase 2 of the challenge.

- 4. What kind of community-based organizations should students/teams work with for the challenge? Can EPA give their definition of a "community-based organization"?**

There is not a definition for "community-based organization" for this challenge. Community-based organizations may include social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, or formal/informal community groups (e.g., neighborhood groups, recreational or special-interest clubs. etc.).

- 5. What constitutes a "community" for this challenge?**

A specific definition of "community" for this challenge has not been defined nor is it limited to a specific group or location. For example, community can include, but is not limited to, a location where the student attends college, a community of interest to the student/team, a place where the student lives, etc. Students/teams may freely define "community" in their submissions.

- 6. Do students need to live in the community they are interested in researching for the challenge?**

No, students do not need to live in the community they are interested in researching for the challenge. As noted above, "community" can be defined as you see fit (e.g., location where the student attends college, a community of interest to the student/team, a place where the student lives, etc.).

EJ Video Challenge for Students - Phase 2 FAQs (continued)

7. What does “building community capacity” mean?

According to the OECD LEED Programme’s “Community capacity building: fostering economic and social resilience. Project outline and proposed methodology”¹...

Community capacity building (CCB) focuses on enabling all members of the community, including the poorest and the most disadvantaged, to develop skills and competencies so as to take greater control of their own lives and also contributes to inclusive local development. Not only can communities be more cohesive but they can also be more resilient and better placed to confront economic and social challenges. Meaningful and effective community capacity building can be stimulated and fostered by national and local governments, and by the capacity which communities have already developed, so that power becomes increasingly embedded within them.

8. Our community partner has already begun to develop community capacity building strategies (before our involvement). To what extent can we build upon their existing work, or do we need to come up with something completely separate for the strategy? Similarly, can Phase 2’s project build upon existing community partner work that has already received funding if we take the project in a new direction that has not been funded or proposed formally yet?

Submissions for this challenge should be the original work developed by the student team in collaboration with at least one community-based organization. If the community partner’s work ties into the EJ issue identified in Phase 1 and you would like to build upon their existing work, then you must ensure that the team’s work is original and hasn’t been used in an already approved contract, grant, or cooperative agreement. We are looking for new and innovative ideas to address the EJ issue identified in Phase 1 rather than having a submission be a reiteration of any existing proposals that have already been awarded/funded as that would not be fair to the other challenge participants who may not have access to any existing proposals.

9. Is this challenge a grant?

No, this challenge is not a grant. 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. Unlike grants, students and community-based organizations from winning teams may use their prize money however they desire to do so.

10. Who is the audience of the video meant to be? Should we frame the video to be like a proposal for funds to support our strategy and include a funding breakdown with a hypothetical budget?

There isn’t a specific audience for this challenge. You could potentially frame the video to be like a proposal for funds to support the strategy, but we don’t want resource issues (e.g., funding or personnel) to be a limiting factor for innovative ideas.

¹ OECD/Noya A. Clarence E., “Community capacity building: fostering economic and social resilience. Project outline and proposed methodology”, 26-27 November 2009, working document, CFE/LEED, OECD, <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/44681969.pdf>

EJ Video Challenge for Students - Phase 2 FAQs (continued)

11. After Phase 2 completes, will you be offering this EJ Video Challenge for Students again in the future?

We do not currently have plans to conduct a second *EJ Video Challenge for Students* challenge at this time, but we are considering it. Please be sure to check back on our EJ Video Challenge website (<https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students>) for current information about this challenge.

ELIGIBILITY

12. Can students from two different colleges collaborate on one challenge submission?

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 challenge submission. Teams must have at least one community-based organization as part of the student's team and at least one faculty advisor to serve as a mentor. Also, only one complete submission (including community capacity building strategy and summary video) is permitted per team.

13. I graduate in Spring 2023. Am I still eligible to participate in Phase 2 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 2023 (or thereafter) are eligible to participate in Phase 2 of the challenge.

14. If students who participated in Phase 1 graduated 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 on their team.

15. 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 (1) community-based organization on the team for Phase 2 as well as one (1) faculty advisor to serve as a mentor.

16. 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 2 of this challenge.

17. 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.

EJ Video Challenge for Students - Phase 2 FAQs (continued)

18. To participate in Phase 2, did 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 of the challenge. Therefore, in addition to the Phase 1 team member, any other student meeting the eligibility requirements for the challenge may participate. Also, students/teams did not need to have won in Phase 1 to participate in Phase 2 of the challenge.

19. If our team won a prize in Phase 1, are we eligible to participate in Phase 2?

Yes, student(s) from Phase 1 winning teams who meet current eligibility requirements are highly encouraged to participate in Phase 2 of the challenge.

20. Do we need to work with an organization in Phase 2?

In Phase 2, students/teams will be required to work with at least one community-based organization to inform strategies for intervention and/or facilitate effective community engagement and advocacy on the EJ issue(s) identified in Phase 1 of the challenge.

21. 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.

22. Can middle/high school students, non-students, or others contribute to the production, interviews, or gathering of data and information for the video or community capacity building strategy?

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 who 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.

23. Can students/teams have more than one faculty advisor?

Yes, students/teams may have more than one faculty advisor.

24. Does the faculty advisor have to be a tenure-track professor position?

Faculty advisors do not need to be tenured or tenure-track employees. 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.

EJ Video Challenge for Students - Phase 2 FAQs (continued)

PRIZES

25. Is there a prize for Phase 2?

Yes, there are prizes for Phase 2. Details for Phase 2 prizes can be found under *Prizes – Phase 2* on the website (<https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students#prizes>).

26. Can teams who won a prize in Phase 1 also win prizes in Phase 2?

Yes, those who won a prize in Phase 1 are allowed to participate and potentially win prizes in Phase 2, as long as all other challenge eligibility requirements are met.

27. If we win, does the prize money need to go towards strategy implementation?

No, both students and community organizations may use the prize money as desired.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

28. Where can I find consent forms for people interviewed or featured in the video?

All required documents and forms can be found under *Required Documentation for Online Entry Form* on the website (<https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students#enter>).

VIDEO QUESTIONS

29. What are the length and format suggestions/requirements for the video?

The maximum length for the Phase 2 video submission is 3 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 under *How To Enter* on the website (<https://www.epa.gov/innovation/environmental-justice-video-challenge-students#enter>).

30. 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.

NOTE: 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. To maintain a fair judging process, we strongly recommend that any sharing of your video be AFTER the winners have been announced.

31. 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.

EJ Video Challenge for Students - Phase 2 FAQs (continued)

32. 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.

33. 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 for Phase 2 of the challenge. However, you may wish to view the Phase 1 winning videos at <https://www.epa.gov/innovation/phase-1-winners-ej-video-challenge-students>.

34. 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.

35. We would like to use a photograph, video, and/or voice recording owned by someone outside of the challenge student/team and the photographer/videographer would like credit for their work. What's the best way to handle this?

Our [EPA Video/Audio/Photo License Agreement](#) is between the student participant/team and the EPA, and this provides EPA with the rights to use the submitted video (in association with the EJ Video Challenge) on EPA's website and/or social media accounts. We recommend that you separately obtain permission from the photographer/videographer to use their content in your video solely for the purposes of the video submission for the challenge as well as to provide credit for the photographer/videographer's work directly in your video with a photo/video credit. Additionally, the photo/video credit must not suggest any inaccurate or inappropriate connection between EPA to the photographer/videographer.