



### 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? Take notice of problems you see on TV and in the newspaper. What problems do your friends complain about?

- ✓ Make a list of observations:

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### 2. Get Inspired!

- ✓ Go to <https://www.youngscientistlab.com/challenge/create/entry-topics>, read the thought starters, and look at videos from previous finalists. Which video made the biggest impression on you? Why?

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### 3. Get Some Focus!

Take a look at your list of problems, and pick your top three ideas.

Things to consider

- Most problems can be solved, but some can be solved more easily than others.
- Which problems seem the most important to help solve?
- Do you feel passionate about any of the topics?
- 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 choices below.

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6. Hit the Books!

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. Get the Word Out – Plan, Plan, Plan!

No one will know about your great idea unless you make a video that can capture their attention and clearly explain 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 will be said in the video.
- ✓ 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 see if they have any helpful advice.
- ✓ Be sure the final video is between one and two minutes long.
- ✓ Upload your video to YouTube and publish for public viewing and set to unlisted. Please note, do not set your video to private. (see [youtube.com/help](https://youtube.com/help) for details).
- ✓ Go to [www.youngscientistlab.com/challenge](http://www.youngscientistlab.com/challenge) and login by using your username and password to access the upload page. Submit your video by 8:00PM EST on April 21, 2020.

**Good luck!**