



# The Paradigm Challenge Lesson Plan

**Title:** Learn How To Change The World And Win \$100,000

**Age:** 14 to 18

**Time:** 45 to 60 minutes

## Introduction

The Paradigm Challenge is a competition open to youth aged 4 to 18. Participants build a team, learn about an important social problem, create ideas to help address the problem, and submit their solutions. The top 100 teams win cash prizes ranging from \$200 to \$100,000. The teachers who are associated with the top 100 teams earn cash grants ranging from \$200 to \$5,000.

The Paradigm Challenge lesson plan inspires youth innovation to address important social issues and enhances each person's awareness of his or her ability and responsibility to affect positive change in the world. The lesson plan teaches youth that they have the ability to solve serious problems using STEM/STEAM plus kindness, creativity, and collaboration. Now. While they are kids. Problem-solving, and even inventing, is not reserved for adults. They will learn that kids have invented cool things such as the popsicle, trampoline, and ear muffs. The lesson plan builds on existing learning activities regarding problem-solving, emotional intelligence, and character and is appropriate for any time of the year.

## Free Youth Registration

Youth can register for The Paradigm Challenge at [www.projectparadigm.org](http://www.projectparadigm.org). There is no cost to enter. Youth will compete in three age divisions (4-8, 9-13, and 14-18).

## Entries

Youth are invited to submit the following types of ideas by the May 1, 2019 entry deadline:

- Community Events
- Inventions
- Posters
- Websites
- Mobile Apps
- Public Messages
- Videos
- Anything else that will help solve the problem

## Learning Outcomes

By completing the lesson plan and participating in The Paradigm Challenge, students will learn the following:

<b>PROBLEM-SOLVING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Six Steps To Solve Any Problem</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Study the problem</li><li>2. Observe what others are doing to help</li><li>3. List all imaginable ideas</li><li>4. Visualize each idea</li><li>5. Engage others for further input</li><li>6. Decide on a solution</li></ol></li></ul>
<b>EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Intrapersonal Skills</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Self-Awareness</li><li>2. Self-Confidence</li><li>3. Social Responsibility</li></ol></li><li>• <b>Interpersonal Skills</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Kindness</li><li>2. Empathy</li><li>3. Collaboration</li></ol></li></ul>
<b>CHARACTER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Leadership</b></li><li>• <b>Teamwork</b></li><li>• <b>Creativity</b></li></ul>

## Lesson Objectives

**Problem-Solving:** Students will learn and apply the “SOLVED” method to generate, assess, and refine creative ideas to address real-life problems. Students will think critically to identify original, feasible, and effective solutions.

**Emotional Intelligence:** Students will learn to recognize their natural born ability to solve problems and begin to understand that they have the ability and the responsibility to affect positive change in the world. This will increase their self-awareness, self-confidence, and social responsibility. Students will have an opportunity to practice kindness, empathy, and collaboration and observe the impact of these important skills.

**Character:** Students will have an opportunity to both lead and collaborate with their fellow students as they search for creative solutions to important social problems.

## Lesson Outline And Resources

Time	Teacher Activity	Resources	Student Activity
7 min	<p>Show Lesson Plan video: “Anyone Can Innovate”</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Introduce the idea that youth have a natural born ability to solve problems and share the Challenge as an exciting opportunity to change the world and win up to \$100,000.</p>	<p><b>Video:</b> <i>Anyone Can Innovate</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Youth Inventions</i></p> <p><b>Ages 4-8 Pre-Lesson Handouts:</b></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>\$100,000</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Inventions</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Home Fires</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>The Three Rs</i></p>	<p>Reflect on information in pre-lesson discussion/ handouts and/or video.</p>
10-20 min	<p>Continue Video “Anyone Can Innovate”</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Facilitate brainstorming about the sample problem of pets that need homes.</p>	<p><b>Video:</b> <i>A Better Way to Brainstorm</i></p>	<p>Work as a class to think of possible ways to help find homes for pets.</p>
10 min	<p>Explain six problem solving steps.</p>	<p><b>Video:</b> <i>Six Steps To Solve Any Challenge</i></p> <p><b>Video:</b> <i>The SOLVED Method</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Six Steps To Solve Any Challenge</i></p>	<p>Have students break into groups to discuss why each step is critical to the problem-solving process.</p>
5 min	<p>Explain how students have the responsibility to help others and the planet, now.</p> <p>Review leading causes of home fires and explain that Fire is Everyone’s Fight.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Review leading types of waste and explain why the Earth is everyone’s responsibility.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Review 8 Dimensions of Wellness and explain why wellness and healing are good for everyone.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Review alternatives to our current food system and how everyone plays a role in achieving food security.</p>	<p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.projectparadigm.org/challenge">www.projectparadigm.org/challenge</a></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Leading Causes of Home Fires</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>The Leading Types of Waste</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>8 Dimensions of Wellness</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Common Healing Needs</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Food Security For Everyone</i></p> <p><b>Video:</b> <i>Kindness, Creativity, and Collaboration</i></p>	<p>Discuss why it is important to help others.</p>
5 min	<p>Explain that youth can help change the world and win up to \$100,000 by applying their natural born ability to problem solve in The Paradigm Challenge.</p>	<p><b>Handout:</b> <i>Letter to Parents</i></p> <p><b>Handout:</b> <i>The Paradigm Challenge Rules</i></p> <p><b>Video:</b> <i>Presenting a Winning Idea</i></p>	<p>Discuss what they would do with \$100,000.</p>

## What Will Students Learn Through The Paradigm Challenge Lesson Plan?

The Paradigm Challenge lesson plan inspires youth innovation to address important global issues and enhances each student's awareness of his or her ability and responsibility to affect positive change in the world. The lesson plan teaches students aged 4-18 that they have the ability to solve serious problems using STEM/STEAM plus kindness, creativity, and collaboration. Now. While they are kids. Seeing, caring, and doing something to help is not reserved for adults. They will learn that kids have invented cool things such as the popsicle, trampoline, and ear muffs. The lesson plan builds on existing Paradigm Challenge learning activities regarding problem-solving, emotional intelligence, and character and is appropriate for any time of the year.

## Free Lesson Plan Materials *(available at [lessonplan.projectparadigm.org](http://lessonplan.projectparadigm.org))*

Each Challenge project contains age-appropriate and content-specific lesson plans to support teachers and students. The Paradigm Challenge lesson plans also include the following videos led by previous winners of the Paradigm Challenge:

- **Anyone Can Innovate** - An inspirational video demonstrating that youth have the natural ability to problem solve, presented by Alexis (Challenge Finalist)
- **The SOLVED Method** - A step-by-step guide on how to apply The Paradigm Challenge SOLVED method to approach any problem using six simple steps, presented by Kedar (First Place Winner)
- **Kindness, Creativity, and Collaboration** - An explanation of how to use kindness, creativity, and collaboration to make a difference in the world, presented by Catie and Paige (First Place Winners)
- **How to Present a Winning Idea** - A demonstration and explanation of how to effectively and successfully present an idea to anyone, presented by Benjamin (Grand Prize Winner)

## Post-Lesson Activities For Students

- Talk to parents/guardians about entering The Paradigm Challenge
- Sign up for The Paradigm Challenge and build a team
- Follow the Six Steps To Solve Any Challenge and submit one or more entries
- Check out additional resources at [www.projectparadigm.org](http://www.projectparadigm.org)
- Enter Kindness Mini-Contest for a chance to win up to \$500
- Join The Paradigm Challenge Ambassador Program for a chance to win a trip to Los Angeles (with a parent or guardian)

## Free Student Registration

Students can register for The Paradigm Challenge at [www.projectparadigm.org](http://www.projectparadigm.org). There is no cost to enter. Students compete in three age divisions (4-8, 9-13, and 14-18).

## Entries

Students are invited to submit the following types of ideas by the May 1 annual entry deadline: community events; inventions; posters; websites; mobile apps; public messages; videos; and anything else that will help solve the problem.

## Questions

If you or your students have any questions about the lesson plans, The Paradigm Challenge, or the teacher grants, please contact Jeff Richardson, the founder of Project Paradigm and The Paradigm Challenge, at [jeff@projectparadigm.org](mailto:jeff@projectparadigm.org).