



Beautiful Minds Challenge

Marlboro College

2018 Project Guide

1. Identify a problem or two:

- a. What are some modern problems that you think need solving? What general problems are many of your peers facing right now? What do you think you and your peers will be facing in 10 years? (Try brainstorming and narrowing your list down to two options.)

2. Research your top problem(s):

- a. What are some ways that you are working toward one of these problems currently?
- b. What are the voices around you saying about your identified problem? (Peers, teachers, community members, online contacts, etc.) What do they think the solution could be? What do they think of your idea for a solution?
- c. Are there places nearby where you could research the history of the problem that you identified? (Libraries, museums, cultural landmarks, etc.)
- d. Are there professionals working toward a solution to this problem that you could reach out to? (Scientists, humanitarians, companies, community organizers, government officials, etc.)

3. Formulate and strategize your solution:

- a. After your research, do you see a potential solution to your problem? If not, can you identify a strategy that would help with a portion of the problem, or begin a process that could help with the problem over time?
- b. What kind of impact is possible on your timeline? Should you start with a local approach in your school, neighborhood, or community, or go for something larger at the state, national, or international level?
- c. What are some small, immediate steps that you could take to solve the problem?
- d. What will you do to stay on track to meet the submission deadline? (Create a timeline, use project management software/app, set calendar reminders, etc.)

4. Document your solution/project:

- a. How can you show your work in a creative and informative way? What project format would best help to tell the story of your problem and solution?
- b. What are your skills and passions? Are you excited about: writing, composing, studio art, film, computer programming, design, community service, or presentations?
- c. What resources will you need? What resources do you have access to? (Software, cameras, art supplies, internet access, etc.)

5. Complete and submit:

- a. Prepare your files for upload.
 - i. Make sure to have your files downloaded for the easiest submission experience.
- b. Gather the following information for yourself and all teammates:
 - i. Full name, email, mailing address, college start term, date of birth, t-shirt size, parent/guardian contact information (name, phone, email).
- c. Fill out the submission form:

- i. Give yourself some time to answer the questions in the project proposal section of the submission form. You may want to read them ahead of time and formulate your answers (with any teammates). It is wise to set aside 30-60 minutes to submit. Project proposal questions can be found in this document under “helpful resources”. When you are ready, visit minds.marlboro.edu and click the “submit” button.
- d. Upload your project files:
 - i. Once you have filled out the submission form and answered the project proposal questions, you will be shown a link to the website where you can upload your project files. (This link will also be emailed to you.) Click the link, fill out your contact information and upload your project files to complete your Beautiful Minds Challenge submission. *Remember: your submission is not complete until you have successfully uploaded your project files and completed the submission form.*
- e. **If you are not applying for a scholarship** – you are done! Please keep an eye on your email. We will be notifying prize winners and honorable mentions of their awards on **February 1, 2019**.
- f. **Seniors applying for scholarships:**
 - i. Complete and submit a full application for admission to Marlboro College by **January 15, 2019**. More details can be found at: <https://www.marlboro.edu/admissions/undergraduate/applying>. Contact the Office of Admissions with any questions: admissions@marlboro.edu or 1-800-343-0049.

Helpful resources:

Keep in mind that we will ask the following questions upon submission:

- What problem facing your generation did you identify, and why does it need to be addressed now?
- How did you decide on your project topic and format?
- What is your proposed solution to the problem?
- Who benefits from your proposed solution?
- What did you learn while completing the Beautiful Minds Challenge?
- With unlimited time and money, how could your idea grow?

Visit minds.marlboro.edu for links to great resources to complete your project.

Email minds@marlboro.edu with any questions.

Beautiful Minds Challenge submission deadline:
midnight December 15, 2018

For scholarship consideration, apply for admission to Marlboro College by **January 15, 2019**

Winners will be notified on **February 1, 2019**

