

Team-Based Challenge Template

PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Team-Based Challenge Title	Critical Research in Education
Source	Scaling Education Pathways in Illinois (SEPI) & Education Systems Center
Industry Partner	Education Systems Center (EdSystems)
Endorsement Area	Human & Public Services
Problem to Investigate/Scope	<p>Student groups will investigate their own schools and lived experiences through critical research. While research may include searching online and exploring academic studies and other communities (locally, statewide, or nationally) students should incorporate the following forms of research as they explore the question/problem that they identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with teachers and administrators • Surveys and conversations with other students (including graduates of their school) • Visits to classrooms or other schools (consider virtual options to avoid travel needs) <p>One example question students may consider exploring is: What challenges did you face or are you currently facing in developing your goals and making college and career decisions? What support, information, or experiences would be helpful?</p>
Project Outcomes	Critical research is usually collaborative and focused on producing knowledge in the pursuit of action for change. By engaging in their own social worlds, students will develop core academic and essential employability competencies to prepare them for college and career readiness.

PROJECT OUTLINE

Stage:	Topics/Events:	Timeline:	Deliverables:
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set Expectations - Skill Development Part 1 – overview of components of critical research - Students meet their EdSystems Mentor 	Week 1	
Project Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a question/problem to investigate, and an approach for completing the project 	Week 1	Project Plan Interview questions for research
Project Execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deep dive into the project, conduct research to address the question/problem - Students meet with their EdSystems Mentor once a week 	Week 2 - 3	Status updates to EdSystems Mentor
Project Finalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued research to refine how to address the question/problem - Prep project Presentation 	Week 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft presentation to EdSystems Mentor, including: Question/problem, Overview of research completed, and How the question/problem should be addressed and recommendations for changes - Mentor provides feedback
Project Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All student teams present their report/ presentation to EdSystems mentors - All EdSystems mentors ask questions and offer additional feedback/guidance 	Week 4	Final report/presentation

This resource was created by [Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University](#).

The Illinois Work-Based Learning Innovation Network (I-WIN) is designed to help employers, educators, and students leverage innovative models for scaling high-quality work-based learning opportunities in school districts and community colleges across the State. This network explores ways to create equitable opportunities for students through both in-person and virtual learning. For more information on I-WIN and additional work-based learning resources, visit edsystemsniu.org/i-win/.

To access a resource bank of Team-Based Challenge templates, visit edsystemsniu.org/i-win-resources/.