

The Project: What is the Project?

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THE FLL PROJECT

1. BASICS

- a. The two most important things from New Coaches Orientation 101 and 102 still apply to the research project.
 - i. HAVE FUN!
 - ii. THE KIDS DO THE WORK!!
- b. The coach's role in the project is to facilitate, guide, and encourage the process. The team handles the content. You should also remind the team of the timeline and where they stand. Don't spend too much time on any one step; you'll need to keep moving. Page 85 in the Coaches handbook has a sample of week-by-week milestones.
- c. Research Project – just as important as the robot.
 - i. Remind the team what FIRST stands for (For the Inspiration and Recognition of **Science** and Technology). Notice there is Science, not just Technology. Thus, the project is just as important as the robot.
 - ii. Each part of FLL is important – each part will emphasize different but equally important skills.
 - iii. Although all teams will be studying “Climate Connection”, projects will all be different. Just as each robot will be different at the competitions, so will each project. This is one of the great things about FLL; there is no one correct way!! You will be amazed at the variety and creativity of what kids can achieve!!

2. UNDERSTAND THE THEME

- a. Research “Climate Connection”.
 - i. Read the challenge very carefully.
 - ii. Refer to the many resources that are provided.
 - iii. Use other resources such as books, the internet, newspaper articles, magazine articles, documentaries, etc.
 - iv. Talk with experts in the field. Have the team brainstorm on the many types of experts that work in this field.

- v. Be sure the entire team has a good understanding of the theme and can talk about the topic chosen.

3. IDENTIFY A PROBLEM THAT EXPERTS FACE.

- a. When talking with experts and doing research, see what types of problems there are related to the topic.
- b. These will be real world problems. Your team will be like a group of scientists conducting research.
- c. Learn how scientists are dealing with these problems.
- d. Brainstorm on what problems interest the team.
- e. Come up with one problem that the team would like to address and then focus on that.

4. DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

- a. What does innovative mean?
 - i. A new idea.
 - ii. An improvement on an idea.
 - iii. A creative idea.
 - iv. Well thought out and researched.
 - v. Does not have to be complicated to be innovative.
 - vi. “KISS” – Keep it Simple Silly can work!!
 - vii. Work with scientists, experts, engineers, etc. on this.

5. SHARE YOUR FINDINGS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- a. What did you learn about the “Climate Connection” topic?
- b. What did you identify as the problem?
- c. What is your innovative solution?
- d. Has the team done anything to “make a difference”?
- e. Who to share with?
 - i. Schools
 - ii. Public organizations
 - iii. Church
 - iv. Public meetings
 - v. Educational events
 - vi. Library
 - vii. Youth organizations
 - viii. Professional organizations

- ix. Scientists, engineers, experts, etc. that you worked with during the season.
- x. Etc.

6. PREPARE A 5 MINUTE PRESENTATION

- a. Summarize all of the above into 5 minutes for the judges!
- b. Be creative in the format:
 - i. Skits
 - ii. Game shows
 - iii. Songs
 - iv. TV interviews
 - v. Plays
 - vi. Audiovisual
 - vii. Etc.
- c. Content – important! Be sure the team includes all they learned during their season. Look at the rubric in the coach’s manual.
- d. All members should participate and be able to answer questions. There will be a 5 minute Q & A time after the presentation (this may vary by region).
- e. IMPORTANT – the 5 minutes includes set up!! Keep it somewhat simple so too much time isn’t spent setting up.
- f. Simple props and costumes can be used.
- g. Special equipment – will vary by tournament. If you are using audiovisual equipment, have a plan B in place!
- h. Keep a binder of all the team’s research, articles, pictures, etc. to show the judges.

7. THE CLIMATE CONNECTION CHALLENGE