

2026–2027 Competitive Events

Middle School Topics



The topics listed below are intended to provide the scenario or context for each applicable competitive event. For complete event requirements, deliverables, technical specifications, presentation expectations, and judging criteria, refer to the Competitive Events Guidelines and Rating Sheets.

Exploring Animation

Design the Playground of the Future!

Create an animation showcasing an imaginative playground that combines fun, accessibility, and environmentally friendly features. Show how children of all abilities can explore, play, and enjoy the space while protecting the environment through creative design.

Use your animation to bring your playground to life... what exciting features, inclusive designs, and sustainable ideas will make it a place where everyone wants to play?

Exploring Business Ethics

Making Safe Choices: Building Trust During a Food Safety Concern

Businesses have a responsibility to protect their customers, especially when food safety concerns arise. Ethical decision-making helps organizations respond honestly, protect public health, and build trust.

Exploring Business Issues

School Stores: What Should They Sell and How Should They Decide?

Many schools and student groups run small stores, snack carts, spirit shops, or fundraiser tables. These businesses must decide what products to sell, how much to charge, how to attract customers, and how to balance making money with being helpful to students and families.

Develop a presentation that explores how a school store or student-run business can choose products, set prices, and make decisions that are fair, useful, and successful.

How can a school store make smart business decisions while meeting the needs of students, families, and the school?

Exploring Coding & Programming

Adventure Awaits: Community Adventure Passport

Communities offer a variety of places to learn, explore, and have fun, including parks, museums, libraries, historical sites, trails, and local attractions. Technology can help people discover new experiences and encourage greater community engagement.

Design and code a new interactive program that encourages users to explore destinations and activities within their local community. Your program should help users discover destinations, track their experiences, and engage with their community through an organized and interactive experience.

How can technology inspire people to explore their community and turn local experiences into memorable adventures?

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Exploring Digital Video Production

Community Heroes: Making a Difference Every Day

Produce a video featuring an individual whose work or volunteer service makes a positive impact in your local community. This person could be a volunteer, first responder, teacher, nonprofit leader, healthcare worker, business owner, coach, or another individual who serves others and helps improve the lives of those around them. Your video should showcase the individual's daily responsibilities, highlight how their work or service benefits the community, and explain why their contributions are important.

How can one person's dedication inspire others to serve their community? Use your video to tell their story and encourage others to recognize and support those who make a difference every day.

Exploring Public Speaking

Where Leaders Begin: Growing Stronger Through Challenges

Everyone faces setbacks, whether it's making a mistake, losing a competition, receiving a poor grade, or not reaching a goal the first time. While challenges can be difficult, they also provide opportunities to learn, grow, and become stronger.

Demonstrate how challenges are often where leaders begin. Share examples and practical lessons that show how setbacks can help people build confidence, develop resilience, and grow as leaders.

Exploring Website Design

Explore Your Area: Create a Visitors Bureau Website

Visitors bureaus and chambers of commerce help residents and visitors discover the attractions, businesses, events, festivals, and experiences that make an area unique. A well-designed website can provide information, promote local destinations, and encourage people to explore everything a region has to offer.

Design a website for your local area, region, or community that helps users discover attractions, events, festivals, resources, and activities while providing an engaging and user-friendly experience.

Imagine someone is visiting your area for the very first time. How can your website showcase the best places to explore, local traditions, seasonal events, and points of interest while making it easy to plan a fun and memorable visit?