

This is a "How- to" guideline for schools forming their first Tenacity Challenge teams. These are recommendations only, as different schools tend to generate their own unique approaches. With this year's competition scheduled for **March 23rd, 2024**, we recommend that teams form and begin preparing any time between **October 1, 2023 and November 13, 2023**. This allows for between three to six months of preparation.

1. Identify a faculty advisor: The faculty advisor serves as a team convener, coordinator, advisor, and if he/she has a subject area expertise, a coach as well. Many schools pay a stipend to the faculty advisor, but as is often the case with clubs and activities, sometimes not until the second year. The advisor should familiarize him/herself with the competition rules, rubrics, etc. so that students don't lose points by missing deadlines or misreading event requirements.
2. Recruit student participants: Teams may be composed of eight members (there may be less, we suggest not less than four, but not more than eight). A school may send more than one team. Schools may determine how they select students. The preference is to have teams made up of students who reflect the range of skills and achievement levels within the school, but some schools select their strongest students. We recommend having mixed grade teams so that:
 - There is continuity from year to year
 - The range of math content is from pre-Algebra through Geometry.
 - Recruiting Tool: Our award winning seven minute video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch4BKn7l3kl>, is a very effective recruiting tool even though is from high school students.. The students' powerful testimony and excitement are infectious.
 - Our experience: Many schools report that it is often more effective for teachers or administrators to tell students that they want them to join rather than ask them if they are interested. As a strengths-based approach to closing achievement gaps, this program is about communicating high expectations and belief in students' ability to meet them.
3. Division of Labor: It is important to be clear with the students from the beginning that not all team members are expected to prepare for all events. This would be overwhelming and if students misunderstand this, they may be reluctant to participate. Most teams then create their own division of labor based upon interest and often facilitated by the students themselves. The four "events", each of which is fully described on the website, are:
 - Leadership Action Project
 - Math Quiz Bowl Challenge
 - Global Voices Literary Analysis
 - STEM Challenge
4. Team Coaches: The faculty advisor typically provides a home base for team meetings. These are usually weekly, increasing in frequency as the competition nears, but they may also initially be bi-weekly, with students doing some early small group work in between. It is important to order the books the team(s) choose to read as early as possible.
 - Students are encouraged to reach out to teachers (the advisor can facilitate this if necessary) to provide coaching/advice during the months of preparation- after school, during an

activities block, etc. An email from the advisor or principal to the faculty can help to facilitate this process. Commonly, the team will assemble at the home base after school or during advisory or activity blocks and then go to the library, to their teacher coaches, etc. to work on their tasks.

- Any teacher or staff member would be a great coach for the leadership project. English teachers frequently give feedback to students on their literary analysis/rationale and performance. Art, math and science teachers also similarly provide assistance where needed.

5. Fill out the online Registration Form and Pay Close Attention to Deadlines:

- The registration form and \$100 fee per team have due dates listed on the website.
- We need T-shirt sizes on time so we can provide for all participants.
- There is a deadline listed on the website for sending in a video of the Literary Analysis and Rationale.

Suggested Timeline

<p>October - November</p>	<p>Recruit team advisors Create teams</p> <p>Choose the book each team will read. Order/Borrow books</p> <p>Choose a STEM engineering design challenge for groups of 4 to do as they begin to establish their team norms, strengthen their communication skills and learn more about each other.</p> <p>Establish a meeting schedule and group norms and expectations</p>
<p>November - December</p>	<p>Register your team, including all student names and Tshirt sizes. The form can be found online.</p> <p>Submit payment request to your principal or district offices</p> <p>Complete the reading of the book</p> <p>Complete the research needed for the Leadership Project, including the interview</p> <p>Determine areas of expertise for the competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 students: Math Quiz Bowl • 4 students: STEM Challenge • Up to 8 students: Literary Analysis • Up to 8 students: Leadership Project <p>Download practice questions for the Math Quiz Bowl from the MathCounts site Math Quiz Bowl participants: Do 3-5 questions per meeting</p> <p>Do a mock STEM engineering design challenge for teams with a 45 minute time limit.</p>
<p>January</p>	<p>Begin working on the Leadership Action Project. Determine an implementation date with your school administrators. Add it to your team calendar of important dates.</p>

	<p>Begin working on the Literary Analysis</p> <p>Do a mock STEM engineering design challenge for teams with a 45 minute time limit.</p> <p>Send a 'Save the Date' inviting families to attend on March 23, 2024 at Bedford High School, 9 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Discuss transportation needs for competition day and develop a plan with your building/district administration.</p>
February	<p>Write the rationale for the Literary Analysis. Have team members (or other supports) edit the drafts until complete.</p> <p>Write the rationale for the Leadership Action Project. Begin creating your presentation for the Leadership Action Project based upon the rubric.</p> <p>Download practice questions for the Math Quiz Bowl from the MathCounts site Math Quiz Bowl participants: Do 3-5 questions per meeting</p>
March	<p>Submit the Literary Analysis rationale and Literary Analysis item (video, image or document) to Kim Comeiro by March 1, 2024</p> <p>Finalize your Literary Analysis and Leadership Action Projects presentations and practice in front of an audience and mock judges.</p> <p>Do a mock STEM engineering design challenge for teams with a 45 minute time limit.</p> <p>Develop a plan for all students to get to Bedford High School on March 23, 2024 by 8:00 am.</p>
April	<p>Complete the request for feedback form when you receive it.</p> <p>Make sure payment has been sent to Bedford High School.</p>