

Challenge 2: Curious Creators

YOUR CHALLENGE:

Every day the residents of Miami face obstacles posed from the natural world. These challenges can be as small as managing a swarm of mosquitos or as big as hurricanes damaging Florida's coastline. Do you think plants can help us tackle some of these natural problems?

For this challenge we want you to think of a real environmental issue that affects your community and create a video that can be uploaded to social media explaining how plants can be the key to solving that problem. Identify at least one species of plant that can address your environmental issue and describe the features that make that plant useful towards helping your community become more resilient against the eco-threat. Create characters, tell stories, and use comedy or drama to show how plants can solve real problems. Make your video short but powerful – like something your favorite YouTuber or TikToker would create that actually makes you stop scrolling.

SUBMISSIONS DUE: December 19, 2025

-  Digital Entry Form for video submission required
-  45 second to 2 min social media video showcasing ways native plants can solve an environmental problem and benefit their community

Participants per submission: Individual or Student Group

POINT SYSTEM:

Maximum Points

100 points per submission

2 submissions per school

= **200 max points**



SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Create a 45 second to 2 minute long video showcasing a natural area that you enjoy going to. The video should showcase an important native plant species that supports the natural area. The video can be funny or serious, but it has to teach people about the natural area you want to showcase.

Video end credits should include student first name(s) and last initial(s), student grade level(s), teacher name, school name, and text saying, "Fairchild Challenge: MS Challenge 2" and "2025-2026"

At least 2-3 scholarly resources listed at the end of the video. Resources can include news or research articles, videos, books, or podcasts.

Digital Entry Form.

- Video link should be added to digital entry form
- Video can be uploaded to TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Google Drive, or a school video sharing program and then link provided (*please ensure that link is open access*)

Two submissions max per school.

For more detailed information and resources, please visit the Middle School Challenge 2 webpage.

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Prior Knowledge:

To be successful, students should be familiar with these concepts:

- Local environmental issues and threats
- Knowledge of ecosystem services provided by plants like flooding mitigation, oxygen production, shading and cooling, biodiversity support, and being a food source
- Basic video production and editing techniques
- Public communication and persuasive writing.
- Research skills to gather accurate plant information and environmental data
- The concept of audience targeting and tailoring messages
- Collaborative skills for working on a team project (if applicable)

Standards/Learning Targets:

Subject	Strand	Standard(s)
Science	Earth and Space Science	SC.7.E.6.6 Identify the impact that humans have had on Earth, such as deforestation, urbanization, desertification, erosion, air and water quality, changing the flow of water.
	Science and Society	SC.8.N.4.2 Explain how political, social, and economic concerns can affect science, and vice versa.
English Language Arts (B.E.S.T.)	Expectations	ELA.K12.EE.6.1 Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.
	Communication	ELA.6.C.1.3 Write and support a claim using logical reasoning, relevant evidence from sources, elaboration, and a logical organizational structure with varied transitions.
		ELA.6.C.2.1 Present information orally, in a logical sequence, using nonverbal cues, appropriate volume, clear pronunciation, and appropriate pacing.
		ELA.7.C.4.1 Conduct research to answer a question, drawing on multiple reliable and valid sources, and generating additional questions for further research.
		ELA.8.C.5.1 Integrate diverse digital media to emphasize the relevance of a topic or idea in oral or written tasks.

For more detailed information and resources, please visit the Middle School Challenge 2 webpage.

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Standards/Learning Targets Continued:

Subject	Strand	Standard(s)
Social Studies	Civics and Government	SS.7.CG.2.10 Explain the process for citizens to address a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue and determining a course of action.
Virtual Arts	Skills, Techniques, and Processes	VA.68.S.1.1 Manipulate content, media, techniques, and processes to achieve communication with artistic intent.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

By the end of this Challenge, students will be able to:

Define specific ways plants can solve or address environmental threats.

Relate how changes in the environment impact your local community.

Devise a solution or action that uses plants to address an environmental issue.

Examine relevant data and examples of environmental threats.

Distinguish between effective and ineffective messaging strategies for their chosen audience.

Execute basic filming and video editing to produce an engaging short video.

Critique and provide constructive feedback on peer projects (if working in groups).

Plan and compose a 45-second to 1-minute video that effectively communicates a message about plants being eco-solutions.

For more detailed information and resources, please visit the Middle School Challenge 2 webpage.



Differentiation:

ESOL students are allowed to complete this assignment in their first language.

Students with writing accommodations may have their observations dictated and transcribed.

Drawings can be group oriented for students lacking fine motor skills.