

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN (COUNTRY NAME)-GEM COMPETITION

AS WE ALL KNOW, COMPETITION IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND TO BE EXPOSED TO NEW EXPERIENCES. HERE WE PROVIDE A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE ON HOW TO DESIGN AND BUILD A COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN YOUR COUNTRY. WE INCLUDE HERE THE FORMAT WE USED FOR THE COMPETITION WE MADE IN OUR COUNTRY, BUT FEEL FREE TO ADJUST THIS GUIDE FOR YOUR OWN NEEDS

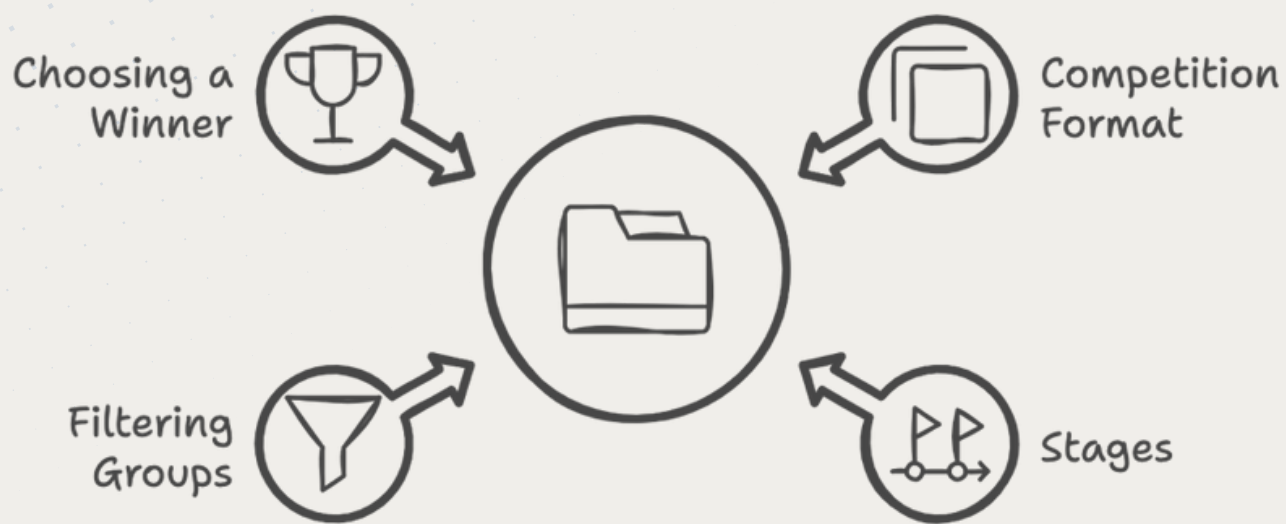
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STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT THE COMPETITION FORMAT WILL BE
THIS IS WHERE YOU PLAN THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR COMPETITION— WHAT ARE THE STAGES, HOW WILL IT BE FORMATTED, AND HOW WILL YOU CHOOSE A WINNER? WE SUGGEST HAVING AT LEAST TWO STAGES SO YOU CAN FILTER THE GROUPS. THAT WAY, LOTS OF TEAMS GET A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE, BUT ONLY THE MOST DEDICATED ONES MAKE IT TO THE FINALS.

Organizing a Fair and Structured Competition



HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF A TWO-STAGE COMPETITION:
STAGE 1: VIDEO SUBMISSIONS – EACH GROUP OF 5 STUDENTS SUBMITS A SHORT 3-MINUTE VIDEO EXPLAINING THE PROBLEM THEY'RE TACKLING AND HOW THEY'RE USING SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY TO SOLVE IT

STAGE 2: FINALS DAY – THE FINALIST GROUPS COME TOGETHER FOR AN IN-PERSON HACKATHON WHERE THEY WORK ON A PRESENTATION ABOUT THEIR PROJECT AND PITCH IT TO A PANEL OF JUDGES. IN THIS FORMAT THERE IS AN EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING TEAMWORK, PRESENTATION, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COOPERATION SKILLS.
***THIS IS THE FORMAT WE USED FOR OUR COMPETITION (TAU-ISRAEL 2024), BUT IT'S JUST A SUGGESTION. FOR SIMPLICITY, WE'LL USE IT AS AN EXAMPLE THROUGHOUT THIS GUIDE**

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**GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNTRY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE
YOU'LL NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPECIFICALLY
THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF BIOLOGY EDUCATION. THEIR SUPPORT WILL HELP YOU
GET THE COMPETITION RECOGNIZED AND RUNNING SMOOTHLY.**

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD AIM TO GET FROM THEM:



competition

**- OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
COMPETITION**



official
recognition

**- HELP IN SPREADING THE WORD TO
RELEVANT TEACHERS**



guidance

**- GUIDANCE ON WHAT CONTENT TO
FOCUS ON FOR THE STUDENTS**



exam
schedule

**- THE EXAM SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS
(SO YOU CAN SET DEADLINES THAT
DON'T CLASH WITH EXAMS)**

BUILD A WEBSITE AND DESIGN A BROCHURE

NOW IT'S TIME TO CREATE A WEBSITE FOR YOUR COMPETITION. THIS SITE SHOULD INCLUDE ALL THE IMPORTANT DETAILS LIKE THE FORMAT, RULES, EDUCATIONAL CONTENT, AND CONTACT INFORMATION. IT'S ALSO THE STAGE TO DESIGN A FLYER TO SEND OUT TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS. IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN YOUR COUNTRY, MAKE SURE THE WEBSITE AND FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL RELEVANT LANGUAGES.

THE FLYER SHOULD INCLUDE:

- A CATCHY, CONCISE EXPLANATION
 - KEY DATES
 - A LINK TO YOUR WEBSITE
- FOR EXAMPLE

iGEM **ISRAGEM II** competition is now underway!

Are you a high school student with an interest in innovation and entrepreneurship? Join us to enjoy, learn, think outside the box, and develop solutions to real world problems!

What can you expect?

- A hands-on experience where you get to collaborate with your friends and take initiative
- Exposure to innovative and fascinating fields in synthetic biology and molecular biology
- A chance to showcase your ideas to a panel of experts from academia, the industry, and the ministry of education with full support from mentors and experts in the field

17.3 Kickoff

19.04 Last day to register

02.6 The grand finale

No experience or prior knowledge necessary! Join us with your enthusiasm and a great concept, and leave the rest to us! Registration in groups of up to 5 students

For more information and registration:

YOUR WEBSITE SHOULD INCLUDE:

- A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETITION
 - RULES AND IMPORTANT DATES
 - EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS THAT EXPLAIN KEY CONCEPTS
 - A VIDEO EXPLAINING SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY (SINCE MANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH IT)
 - A REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE COMPETITION
 - A CONTACT PAGE
- :FOR EXAMPLE
[HTTPS://ISRAGEM.VERCEL.APP/EN](https://isragem.vercel.app/en)

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PREPARE ALL THE NEEDED MATERIALS TO KEEP THINGS ORGANIZED, HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE IN ADVANCE FOR THE COMPETITION:

LOCATIONS FOR THE FINAL DAY:

YOU'LL NEED TO DECIDE WHERE TO HOLD THE COMPETITION. WE RECOMMEND USING YOUR UNIVERSITY —AND BOOKING ROOMS IN ADVANCE COMPUTER LABS FOR THE STUDENTS TO WORK IN AND AN AUDITORIUM FOR THE PRESENTATIONS AND JUDGING SESSION. MAKE SURE TO RESERVE THESE SPACES WELL AHEAD OF TIME AND FOR THE WHOLE DAY

REGISTRATION FORM:

USE A GOOGLE FORM FOR REGISTRATION, WHICH WILL AUTOMATICALLY COLLECT THE DATA IN GOOGLE SHEETS WE SUGGEST USING YOUR IGEN TEAM'S EMAIL, SO ALL THE INFORMATION IS ORGANIZED IN YOUR TEAM'S DRIVE. YOU CAN FIND AN EXAMPLE ON OUR COMPETITION WEBSITE

Competition Organization Overview

PRIZE:

A COOL PRIZE CAN REALLY BOOST PARTICIPATION! IT COULD BE SOMETHING EDUCATIONAL RELATED TO BIOLOGY OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK THE STUDENTS WOULD ENJOY



FINAL DAY SCHEDULE:

THE SCHEDULE SHOULD INCLUDE MEETING TIMES, WORK SESSIONS, BREAKS, AND JUDGING. CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF FINALIST GROUPS, HOW LONG EACH PRESENTATION WILL TAKE, AND PLAN FOR ANY UNEXPECTED DELAYS

EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS:

NOT ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE SAME BACKGROUND, SO IT'S HELPFUL TO PROVIDE SOME INTRODUCTORY VIDEOS ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND HOW TO IDENTIFY REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS. YOU COULD OFFER SOME PROBLEM AREAS (LIKE GLOBAL WARMING) AND GIVE EXAMPLES OF HOW SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY COULD HELP SOLVE THEM. KEEP THE VIDEOS SHORT BUT INFORMATIVE

CERTIFICATES AND MEDALS:

WE RECOMMEND DESIGNING PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES FOR ALL STUDENTS WHO REACH THE FINALS AND CREATING A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE FOR THE WINNING TEAM. ADDING MEDALS FOR THE WINNERS IS A GREAT WAY TO ENHANCE THE PRESTIGE OF THE COMPETITION

JUDGING FORM:

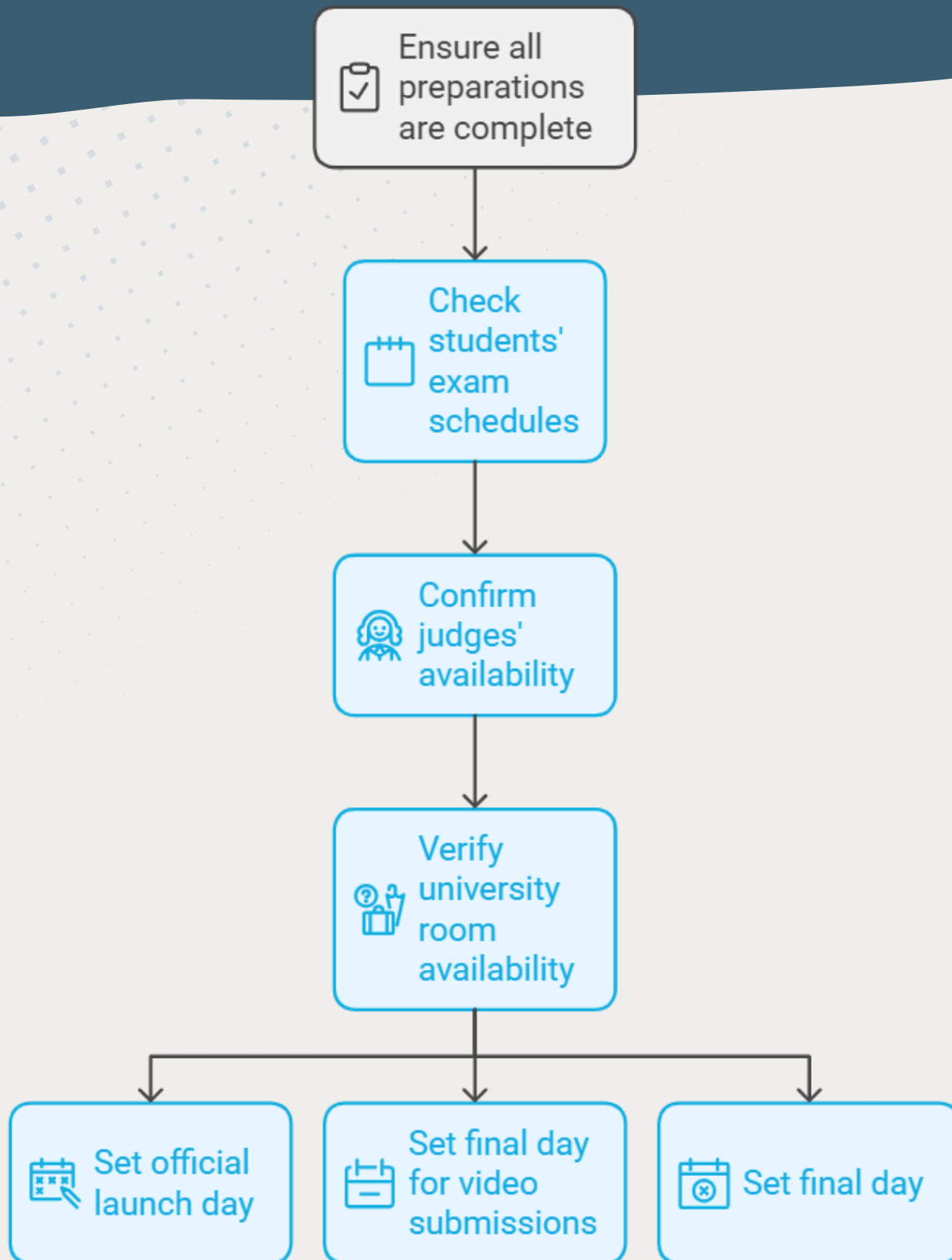
KEEP THE JUDGING QUESTIONS SHORT AND LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 10 QUESTIONS. THEY SHOULD COVER THE BIOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT, AS WELL AS HOW THE GROUP PRESENTS IT. IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO SHARE THE JUDGING CRITERIA WITH THE FINALIST GROUPS AHEAD OF TIME SO THEY CAN PREPARE

JUDGES:

ON THE FINAL DAY, THE WINNING GROUP WILL BE CHOSEN BY A PANEL OF JUDGES. TO MAKE THE COMPETITION FEEL PRESTIGIOUS, WE SUGGEST INCLUDING RESPECTED FIGURES FROM ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY. A BALANCED PANEL (WITH A REP FROM ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY, AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION) WILL ENSURE A FAIR ASSESSMENT OF EACH GROUP'S WORK

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SET DEADLINES AND A DATE FOR THE FINAL DAY
ONCE EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE, YOU CAN SET THE COMPETITION DATES. BE SURE TO CONSIDER THE STUDENTS' EXAM SCHEDULES AND CHOOSE A FINAL DATE THAT WORKS WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF THE JUDGES AND UNIVERSITY ROOMS. FOR OUR FORMAT WE USED THREE DATES:



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OFFICIAL LUNCH THE COMPETITION (AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE FINAL DAY)

NOW THAT YOUR COMPETITION IS OFFICIALLY UP AND RUNNING AND THE WEBSITE IS LIVE, IT'S TIME TO GET THE WORD OUT!

ASK YOUR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO SEND EMAILS TO TEACHERS, REACH OUT TO HIGH SCHOOLS YOUR TEAM MEMBERS ATTENDED, AND PROMOTE THE COMPETITION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
SOME STUDENTS MAY STRUGGLE TO COME UP WITH AN IDEA OR MIGHT HAVE IDEAS THAT AREN'T PRACTICAL. TO PREVENT FRUSTRATION, WE RECOMMEND BEING AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS TO REACH OUT TO YOU WITH QUESTIONS. YOU CAN CHOOSE HOW TO COMMUNICATE, AND IT'S ALSO HELPFUL TO SUPPORT THE TEACHERS OF THE REGISTERED GROUPS

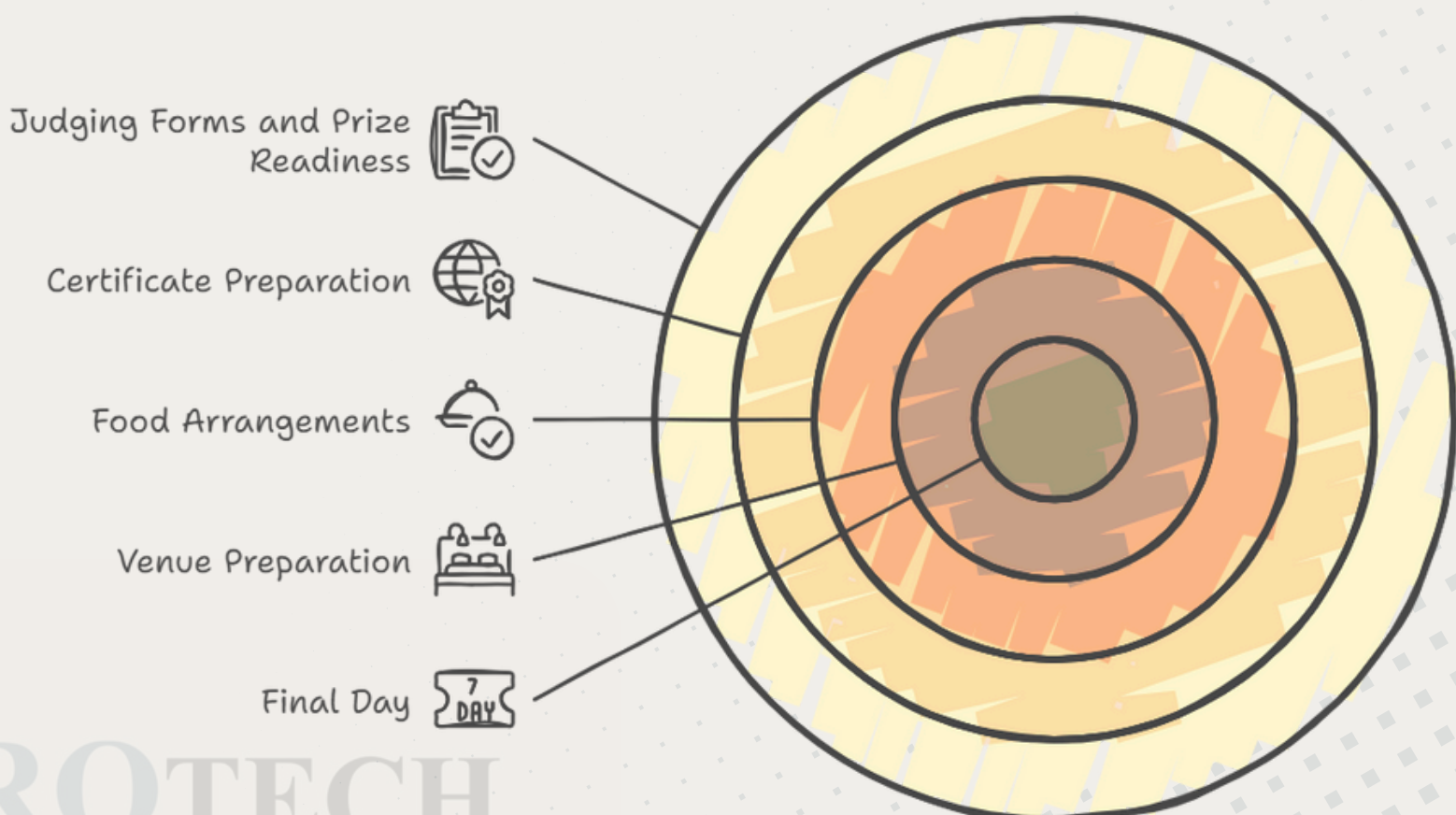
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PICK THE GROUPS THAT WILL MOVE TO THE FINAL
BASED ON YOUR COMPETITION FORMAT, YOU'LL NOW SELECT THE GROUPS THAT WILL ADVANCE TO THE FINALS. WE RECOMMEND CHOOSING NO MORE THAN 10 GROUPS, WITH 5-7 BEING THE IDEAL RANGE. TOO MANY GROUPS CAN MAKE FINALS DAY EXHAUSTING FOR EVERYONE—TEACHERS, STUDENTS, JUDGES, AND YOUR TEAM

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LAST PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL DAY
(TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE FINAL DAY)
BEFORE FINALS DAY, MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS READY—ROOMS ARE BOOKED, FOOD IS ORDERED FOR THE STUDENTS DURING BREAKS, PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES AND A WINNER'S CERTIFICATE ARE PRINTED, JUDGING FORMS ARE PREPARED, AND THE PRIZE IS READY TO GO

Final Day Preparation



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ENJOY THE FINAL DAY!

SUPPORT THE STUDENTS AND HELP THEM SUCCEED. WE SUGGEST ASSIGNING A MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM TO EACH STUDENT GROUP TO ASSIST THEM THROUGHOUT THE DAY. FINALS DAY IS NOT JUST ABOUT COMPETING—IT'S A FUN AND VALUABLE EXPERIENCE THAT THE STUDENTS WILL REMEMBER!

WE HOPE THIS GUIDE HELPS YOU ORGANIZE YOUR COMPETITION AND INTRODUCE YOUR COMMUNITY TO THE FASCINATING WORLD OF SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY!

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