



MATH, CAMERA, ACTION!

The 2014 Math Video Challenge
Quick Start Guide
for Team Advisors and Students

 **MATHVIDEO**
CHALLENGE
produced by **MATHCOUNTS**[®]

Epic skills. Major props. Reel excitement.

The Math Video Challenge from MATHCOUNTS can be a lot of fun, help you learn — and make you a star. Just follow these simple steps.



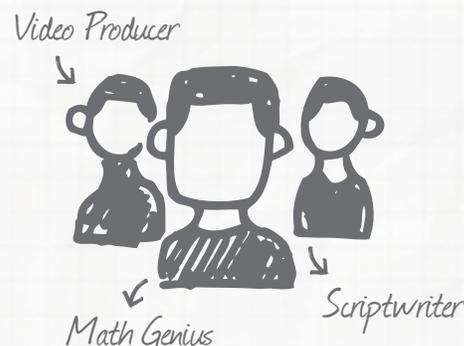
Step One is for both Students and Team Advisors, Step Two is for Team Advisors, and Steps Three through Nine are for Students.

★ **Step One:** Establish Your Team

The Math Video Challenge involves teams of four students, picked by either Students or their Team Advisors.

If you're choosing a team, look for people with different interests and skills. For example, one person might be a whiz at math, one might be good with words, while another might have lots of experience shooting videos.

This way, everyone does his or her fair share, and the whole team benefits from one person's special talents.



TIP FOR SUCCESS:

Team Advisors: If you're looking for a way to introduce the Math Video Challenge to Students, check out this optional warm up activity from MATHCOUNTS that will get Students thinking about what makes a great math video.

Get your Warm Up Activity here >>

Or log on to: videochallenge.mathcounts.org/warmup

★ **Step Two:** Register for the Challenge

This online contest features Student-created videos, so in order for your team to register, all four Student team members must get parental permission to participate. There are two ways to register:

Online: If the Team Advisor, all 4 Students and each Student's parent all have their own email address, you can register online quickly with parents giving permission electronically. Here's how it works:

1. Team Advisor registers online
2. Each Student gives his/her own email address to the Team Advisor
3. Team Advisor adds the Student email addresses to the team's profile
4. Each Student is emailed instructions to start registration and must provide his/her parent's email address
5. Parents are emailed contest information and instructions for giving permission to participate
6. After each Student has his/her parent's permission, the team can participate

Offline: You can fill out and submit an Offline Registration & Permission Form for each Student team member. MATHCOUNTS will email all team account information to the Team Advisor within two business days of receiving the team's forms.

Team Advisor begins registration process here >>

Or log on to: videochallenge.mathcounts.org/advisor/register

Offline Registration Form >>

Or log on to: videochallenge.mathcounts.org/offlineregistration

Like most things in life, the Math Video Challenge has a set of rules. Knowing what they are in advance will increase your chances of making a great video — and maybe winning the contest.

Read the rules here >>

Or log on to: videochallenge.mathcounts.org/rules



If you have any questions about the rules or registration process, visit our FAQ page at videochallenge.mathcounts.org/FAQ or email us at videochallenge@mathcounts.org.

★ **Step Three:** Pick Your Problem

Picking a math problem your whole team agrees on is very important.

[Look here for a list of problems >>](#)

Or log on to:

videochallenge.mathcounts.org/problems

But before you choose, it's a good idea to check out videos from last year's Math Video Challenge to see which ones you like, and to gather ideas on how to create your own. (Popcorn is optional.)



[Check out last year's videos >>](#)

Or log on to: videochallenge.mathcounts.org/videos

★ **Step Four:** Brainstorm Ideas

Now that you've picked your problem, **it's time to create your video** — at least in your head. At this point, all you need to do is come up with basic ideas that:

- **Clearly show how you solved the math problem**
- **Take place in a safe setting close to your home or school**
- **Can be filmed at a location that doesn't require permission**
- **Show the real-world application of the math problem**



TIP FOR SUCCESS:

Have your team shout out as many ideas as you can, no matter how good or silly they might be. Have someone on your team write down all the ideas. Then go back and read them, picking out at least six that seem the best. Finally, have your team vote on their favorite.

★ **Step Five:** Create a Storyboard

Before you go through the time and trouble of shooting your video, you should present your idea to your Team Advisor for feedback. Storyboards let you do that.

Storyboards are drawings and/or descriptions of the basic action you want to present in your video.

- Who are the characters
- Where the action takes place
- What happens in the video
- HOW you solved the math problem



**Watch this video
on storyboarding >>**

Or log on to:

videochallenge.mathcounts.org/storyboard

Go to Page 8 to print out a storyboard template.

★ **Step Six:** Write Your Script

A video script needs to describe the setting, the action of the characters, the dialogue, and any superimposed words or images. Here's an example:

<p>Scene: The garage at Larry's house. Larry's sister, Dee, is frustrated and has pieces of wood scattered everywhere. Larry enters.</p> <p>Larry: <i>Hey, Dee. What's up?</i></p>
<p>Dee: <i>I'm almost finished with this bird house, but I can't figure out how to make the roof.</i></p>
<p>Larry: <i>You need to make sure you start with the correct angle.</i></p>
<p>She holds up the roof of the birdhouse.</p>
<p>Dee: <i>You mean like this?</i></p>
<p>Larry: <i>No. Try a 90-degree angle like this.</i></p>
<p>Superimpose: Angle measurement graphic with "90°"</p>



TIP FOR SUCCESS:

When writing your script, keep in mind that your final video should be no more than five minutes long.

★ **Step Seven:** Shoot Your Video

Now comes the fun part. Shooting your video can easily be done with a camera, camcorder or smartphone.

It's not a bad idea to rehearse your script a few times before starting. But, remember, if you make a mistake, there's always "Take Two!"

MATHCOUNTS Making a Video Help >>

videochallenge.mathcounts.org/making-video

★ **Step Eight:** Edit Your Video

In-Camera Editing

Since your video will be under five minutes long and you already have a storyboard and script, you may want to try in-camera editing, which is when you shoot all of your scenes in order. This way, when you're done filming you're done editing too, and everything is already in the correct order. *How cool is that?*

Video-Editing Software

Your other option is using video editing software—like Windows Movie Maker or iMovie—to add transitions, voice overs, music and more.



TIP FOR SUCCESS:

Check out these helpful links on using video-editing software:

How to Make a Complete Movie with Only an iPhone >>

videochallenge.mathcounts.org/iphone

A Beginner's Guide to iMovie >>

videochallenge.mathcounts.org/imovieguide

iMovie support >>

videochallenge.mathcounts.org/imoviesupport

Live Movie Maker >>

videochallenge.mathcounts.org/livemoviemaker

★ **Step Nine:** Submit Your Video

Log into your account and submit your video for your Team Advisor to approve. Check back with your Team Advisor to make sure your video was approved.

That's a wrap! Your Math Video Challenge is done, **and now it's time to bask in the applause.**

Congratulations!



If you have problems submitting your video, contact us at videochallenge@mathcounts.org



TIP FOR SUCCESS:

You may want your teams to share their work by having a class screening.



Lesson Planning Materials

Production Schedule

In order to keep your project on track, you'll need to set some deadlines with your Team Advisor. Fill in the dates using the grid below.

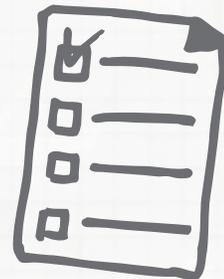
Activity	Timeline	Due Date	Complete
Complete Team Member Registration	1 Day		<input type="checkbox"/>
Get Parent Permission	1 Day		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pick & Solve Your Problem	1 Day		<input type="checkbox"/>
Storyboard Your Video	2 Days		<input type="checkbox"/>
Write Your Script	3 Days		<input type="checkbox"/>
Film and Edit Video	4 Days		<input type="checkbox"/>
Submit Your Video	1 Day		<input type="checkbox"/>

*This is only a suggested timeline, you can spend more or less time on any of these activities. Some of the activities may also be completed concurrently.

Rules and Guidelines Checklist

Make sure your video:

- Does not use copyrighted music, video, or images
- Is under 5 minutes long
- Is an accepted file format
- Follows all other contest rules

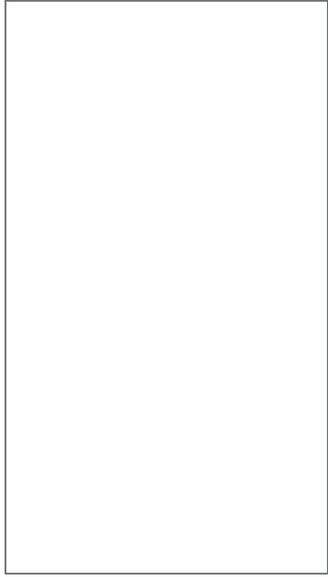


Math Video Challenge - Storyboard Template

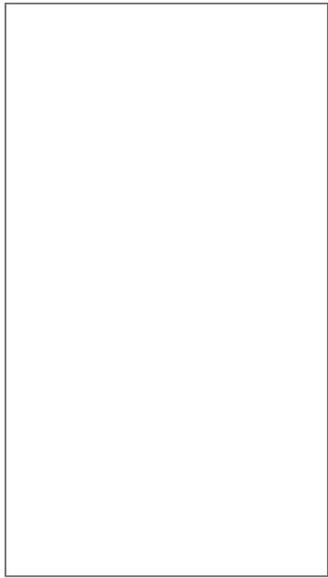
Team Advisor: _____

Student Names: _____

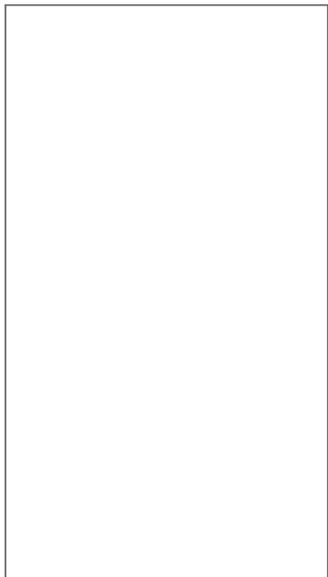
Date: _____



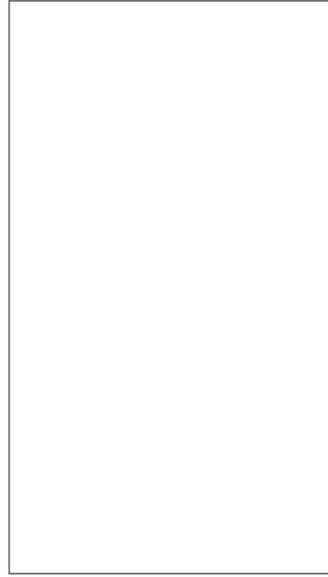
1 _____



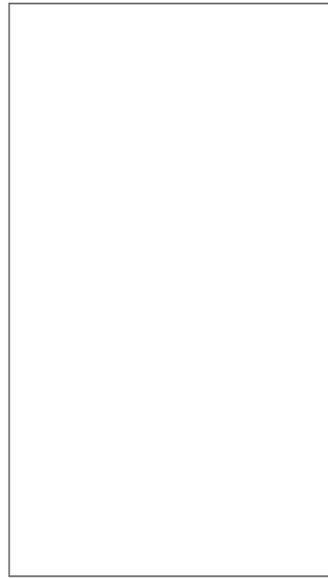
2 _____



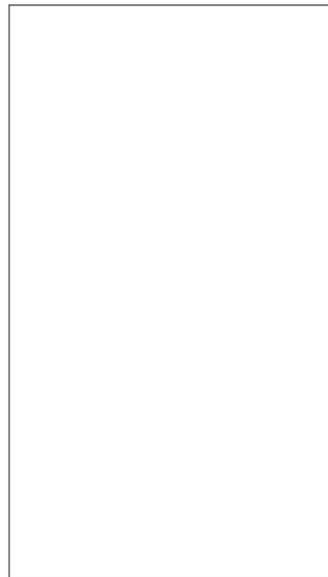
3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

