



Student Ideas for a Better America™

*Do you have a great idea?
...Or a better way to do something?*

WANTED: YOUR IDEAS!

The National Museum of Education is looking for creative students in grades PreK-12+ College who are US students. Enter any idea or invention for a new way to demonstrate an educational concept, an idea for a new product, an improvement for an existing product, a new procedure, or any idea that solves a problem and/or makes life better. This can be simply an idea that is explained and described, an invention that is a prototype, an invention from a school project, or a project from another competition. All ideas are encouraged and a model is not required.

MISSION STATEMENT

Student Ideas for a Better America™ seeks to encourage the learning, insight, creativity, and workmanship of America's students by recognizing and rewarding their accomplishments.

GOALS

1. To demonstrate that valuable ideas can be created by America's youth.
2. To encourage students to develop their ideas into reality.
3. To move students from passive spectators to active participants.
4. To ignite the faith that students can solve real-world problems.
5. To inspire student pride in learning.
6. To inspire America's pride in her students.

WINNERS

Beginning in September 2010 through the present, up to three winners are chosen each month, and each will receive \$100 and a certificate for his/her idea.

JUDGING CRITERIA & DIVISIONS

Entries are judged on creativity, uniqueness, and usefulness. The judging takes into consideration the student's age. There are three divisions: Grades PreK-3, Grades 4-8, and Grades 9-12+College

With grateful and loving honor, we announce the new "W.I.S.E. Award" in the Student Ideas for a Better America™ program: **"Frances O. Williamson Inventions in Science Education"**.

For over 25 years, Frances O. Williamson was a science teacher and a pillar of the educational community. Her skilled, passionate, and creative teaching introduced landmark projects to the science curriculum. Providing opportunities for students to race solar cars, launch rocket ships, and design maglev trains, Frances Williamson prioritized hands-on learning, interdisciplinary cooperation, and student creativity.

One ninth-grade class dedicated their yearbook to Mrs. Williamson: "She is not only a teacher, but also an advisor, friend, and role model to all of us. She is imaginative and enthusiastic in and out of the classroom. She reminds us of the one and only Miss Frizzle from 'The Magic School Bus's leading into each [new]...adventure."

The Student Ideas for a Better America™ award honors students who have embraced opportunities for inquiry, investigation, and imagination that Mrs. Williamson fostered in generations of students.

PRIVACY & OWNERSHIP

The National Museum of Education, Inc. is granted permission to use the entrant's name, photograph, likeness, and entry materials, including the design, prototype, and inventions, for publicity purposes. Students retain ownership and all rights to the design, prototype, and inventions.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Winning entries are eligible for induction into the National Gallery for America's Young Inventors. Six student inventors are inducted annually into the National Gallery, the museum where "Dreams Never Die". Educational inventions may receive royalties, as seen on CNN and CBS, and may also be featured in highly circulated national science catalogs.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EDUCATION, INC.

The National Museum of Education is a non-profit organization developed and run by award-winning educators in conjunction with successful businesspeople. It involves all grade levels, all types of students, and all subject areas. The Museum administers many national programs, and its ultimate goal is to involve students everywhere in the innovative and creative process.

HOW TO SUBMIT IDEAS

1. The student must be a US citizen
2. Complete the submission form. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.
3. Complete the questions describing your idea/invention fully. Attach additional pages, if necessary. (Please note there are three applications available, one for each grade level division.)
4. Include labeled and colored drawings, diagrams, etc.
5. Consider an optional photo or video.

SENDING YOUR APPLICATION

1. Applications for each of the 3 divisions by grade are available on www.nmoe.org
2. You may also mail all application pages through USPS STANDARD MAIL ONLY to:

National Museum of Education, Inc.
4301 Darrow Road, Suite 3200
Stow, OH 44224

*** Submissions requiring signature upon receipt WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: www.nmoe.org (Click on "Programs" ... and then "Student Ideas for a Better America™")

Email: info@nmoe.org

Phone: 234-900-6018

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5. Consider an optional photo or video.

SENDING YOUR APPLICATION

1. There is an online application for Grades 9-12+College available on www.nmoe.org
2. You may also mail all 4 pages through USPS STANDARD MAIL ONLY to:
National Museum of Education, Inc. | 4301 Darrow Road, Suite 3200 | Stow, OH 44224
*** Submissions requiring signature upon receipt WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.*

For Internal Use Only

Received: _____
Reviewed: _____
Awarded: _____
Posted to web: _____
Filed: _____

SUBMISSION FORM – Grades 9-12 + College

I. Student Information

First Name	Last Name	DOB (M/D/Y)	Grade
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email		

II. School Information

School Name			
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
Teacher/Mentor First Name	Last Name	Phone	Email

III. Method of Contact if selected to win (Must Check One)

- Student Home
- School, care of Teacher/Mentor

IV. Invention/Idea Information (Type or write legibly, in student's own words)

1. Invention Name: _____
 2. Is the invention name **original** and not used for another product/service? Yes _____ No _____
 3. Did you complete both of these? Yes _____ No _____
 - a. Conduct an Internet search to see if your invention already exists, and
 - b. Visit <http://www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/search-patents> to see if a US Patent for a similar item already exists.
- (If "NO", your submission will be considered INCOMPLETE)*
4. Is your invention an original idea that does NOT currently exist or have a US Patent? Yes _____ No _____

If "YES", describe WHAT your invention or idea is: _____

Explain HOW it works: _____

IV. Invention/Idea Information Continued

5. Is it an improvement upon an existing invention? Yes _____ No _____

If "YES", NAME the existing invention you are improving: _____

Describe HOW you improved the existing invention: _____

6. List materials needed to make your invention: _____

7. Include a drawing, photo and/or upload a video to YouTube. Provide YouTube video link below (*items will NOT be returned): _____

8. Were you able to create your invention? Yes _____ No _____

If "YES", how well did it work? _____

IV. Invention/Idea Information Continued

If your invention did NOT work well, what improvements are necessary? _____

V. Resources (you may leave blank if no resources were used):

- If you received help answering these questions and/or building your invention, list who helped.
- If you used any references (books, articles, online sources, etc.) list them below. Grade 9-12+College should follow APA format.

VI. Submission Checklist

- I have completed ALL information in sections I-V legibly, using complete sentences and in my own words.
- I have conducted online research to see if a similar invention or US Patent exists.
- I have included photos, drawings, and/or the YouTube link to my video.
- I have listed references used (books, articles, websites)
- I am using USPS Standard Mail to submit my form (or online), so no signatures are required upon receipt.

VII. Signature

Student Signature _____ Date _____
Parent Signature (if student is under 18) _____ Date _____
Teacher/Mentor Signature _____ Date _____