

5 Steps to Successful Implementation of the iOme Challenge

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iOme Challenge changed the way my students learn. It also changed the way I teach.

Below are five simple lessons I learned by implementing the iOme Challenge in my classroom:

1) Provide more help early on. I've now had students compete for three straight years, in the iOme Challenge, and it is always toughest at the beginning. This is something new even for Business and Economics majors. Do some planning to get as many details as possible about what you want them to do in the syllabus, with clear instructions. They will have questions, so do a little hand-holding at the beginning, until they're ready to run on their own.

2) Have the students come up with a theme for the research project. I told the students that the judges have never heard of us. So we can't be the LaGrange College team. We can't be the savings team. We have to be the Mythbusting team, which we had chosen as our team theme. Although the judging is blind and the Blue Ribbon Panel of Judges did not know who we were, they liked our paper and remembered us!

3) Have examples of what you are looking for. If you write up a sample paper, or find one that's a good one, provide it to the students to show them what you are looking for. Do the same for the presentation/video.

4) Give the students plenty of leadership opportunities. After the first week or two, students will begin formulating ideas about what they would like to do. Give them a few chances to do just that. And make sure that groups have something for everyone to do, so everyone has a function to perform.

5) Be tough with the grading and punctual with the assignments. You know the iOme judges will be tough. So get the material on time. With the exception of a Hurricane Sandy delay, those are firm deadlines, so get the students to get their work done and do it well. This contest is about ideas, but you don't want to miss out because of punctuation or grammar mistakes.

www.iomechallenge.org