

Starting a Challenge at DonorsChoose.org

What is a Challenge for?

- A DonorsChoose Challenge is an easy way to work with your friends, family, readers, and colleagues to raise money for classroom projects proposed by public school teachers.
- Anyone can start a challenge! A challenge is a web page on DonorsChoose.org where you can list your favorite proposals and encourage others to fund them. (See below for a step-by-step guide.)

What is a Challenge NOT for?

- If you are a teacher looking to raise funds for a classroom project, DO NOT start a challenge – you need to write a proposal. Go to www.donorschoose.org and click on the “Submit a Proposal” link.
- If you are an individual looking for funds for yourself, go to www.modestneeds.org.

What are the basics steps to start a DonorsChoose.org Challenge?

- Just follow these 4 Easy Steps (for detailed instructions, please see step-by-step guide below):
 - Create a Challenge
 - Pick an amount you want to raise through your Challenge
 - Search for proposals to add to your Challenge
 - Tell your friends, family, and colleagues about your Challenge!

I'm ready – How do I get started? (A Step-by-Step Guide)

- 1) Go to the [Gift Options](#) page and select “Create a Challenge” at the bottom of the page
- 2) Sign in to your account, or create a new one
- 3) Next, you'll see the “Challenge Details” page.

- A. **Title** - Give your challenge a title
- B. **Join a leaderboard** – If you'd like to participate in the Leaderboard, you can select a category here. (You can see the Leaderboard at <http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/leadershipboard.html>).

If you do not wish to participate in a leaderboard, choose “Do Not Publicize.”

- C. **Fundraising goal** – Set a monetary goal for your challenge (you can change this amount later).
- D. **Message** – Describe your challenge here. You can type in plain text, but we also offer optional advanced features.
1. Any standard HTML tags can be used to format your description.
 2. To include a link to your homepage, corporate page, or blog, use the "Insert URL" link just below this box and the proper HTML will be created.

- E. **Image** - If you want to include an image, click the "Add" button and then Browse for the image on your computer.
- F. **Website or blog name / Website or blog URL (Optional)**
If you have a blog and would like the Leaderboard to link back to your blog or homepage, put the name and URL here.
- G. **Save Changes!**

CREATE YOUR CHALLENGE

A Title -

B Join a leaderboard -

C Fundraising goal -

1 EDIT CHALLENGE INFORMATION

A Title -

D Message (HTML allowed)

[Insert URL](#)

E Image (will replace default "thank you" image)

Join a leaderboard -

Fundraising goal - \$

Donated via challenge \$0.00

Left to raise \$200.00

Unfunded proposal amount \$0.00

Website or blog name

F Website or blog URL http://

G

PROPOSAL

Please Help Me Add to my Classroom Library

FUNDING
Needs: \$49
Already funded: \$520 (91%)
Total cost: \$569

CLASSROOM
Lgn income: 89% (High Need)
Level: Grades 3-5
Teacher's funded projects: 10
Thank-you punctuality: 100%

PROJECT
Subject: Literacy (In Literacy & History)
Additional subject(s): Mathematics (In Math & Science), Literature / Creative Writing (In Literacy & History)
Resource: Books
Submitted: Jul 19, 2007
Expires: Mar 18, 2009
Project ID: 98261 (normal)
Students impacted: 40
Instructional hours (est.): 52
Used by future students? Yes

I teach fifth grade at an under-performing urban school in San Francisco. My students come from low-income families so we get no money from home or from our school district for things like books to add to our classroom libraries. Every year, I reach into my pockets (deep into my pockets) to buy the newest, most interesting books to enhance my classroom—picture books, chapter books, nonfiction books, anything that I think the kids will want to read.

This year I decided to go in a different direction. I found the best nonfiction books I could to read aloud to my students to help me teach various grammar and math concepts. Two series by the author and illustrator Brian P. Cleary are quite popular right now, "Words Are Categorical" with volumes focusing on nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, homonyms, homophones, synonyms and antonyms, and "Math Is Categorical" with volumes on addition, subtraction and measurement will both be welcome and helpful additions to our bookshelf.

All together I am requesting 26 books. The two series I mentioned, plus a few other books along the same lines. I am confident they will help solidify some concepts that are difficult to grasp, especially for those students who just happen to see things in a different way from their classmates.

I truly appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

My project needs 26 different non-fiction books focusing on grammar and mathematics, to add to my classroom library. The cost of this proposal is \$569.

fund all or part of this proposal

Tell a Friend
[Add to Registry](#)
Learn about registries.

[Add to Challenge](#)
Learn about challenges (PDF)

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

BAY AREA LEADERSHIP PARTNER

THE LEHMAN BROTHERS FOUNDATION

BAY AREA PARTNER

Bank of America

YAHOO!

BAY AREA FRIENDS

Corner Foundation

4) Now that you've created your challenge, it's time to start adding proposals to it! To do so, click "Search for proposals" to find challenges by geography, topic, subject, type of resource, and kind of students. **Once you find a proposal you would like to add**, just click the "Add to Challenge" link on the right side of the screen.

- To see all of the proposals you have added to your challenge, return to the "Challenge Detail" page via "My Account," where you will see a list of all of the proposals in your challenge

2 ADD/REMOVE PROPOSALS

[Search for proposals](#) to add to your challenge! Once you've found a proposal that speaks to you, click "ADD TO CHALLENGE".

Click! Boosting Self Confidence in Earth Science Students	Needs: \$344 0%	[remove]
Turning A Science Classroom into The Hot Zone	Needs: \$0 100%	[remove] Fully funded
Power Is Knowledge	Needs: \$0 100%	[remove] Fully funded
Fishing, Sorting, and Learning, Oh My! A Trip to North Carolina's Coastal Region	Needs: \$2,984 0%	[remove] expired
Can You See It Now???	Needs: \$964 0%	[remove] expired

- Clicking on the **title** will open a new window so that you may view the proposal.
- Beside every title link is a thermometer that shows the **% funded** for each proposal. **% funded** includes funding from your challenge or funding from an unrelated donation.
- Clicking the **remove** link will take the proposal out of your challenge. Once someone has donated to that proposal through your challenge, however, that proposal cannot be removed.

5) **Promoting your Challenge** - Now that you've added new proposals, you are ready to start promoting your challenge. Once you've saved your challenge, visit the "Challenge Details" page. Use the "**email challenge to my friends**" button to send a note about your challenge to the email addresses of your friends.

3 SHARE THIS CHALLENGE

Email

[email challenge to my friends](#)

If you own or contribute to a blog, we've provided several other ways to promote your challenge:

- Links** - Use the link functionality to add a link to your website, blog, or web commentary. The first line contains the basic URL of your website which can be copy-pasted into a web browser or linked

- **Thermometer Widgets** – This shows how far your challenge is to reaching your goal and updates once a day. Using the HTML code provided, paste the code for the large or small version into your site.
- **Banners** – You can add DonorsChoose.org banners to your site

6) **View Donations** – View the donors who gave to your challenge

4 VIEW DONATIONS

The following individuals have donated via this challenge.

Donor	Proposal	Date
[REDACTED]	Computers For Harlem Students In Special Education	2006-09-29
[REDACTED]	Enhancing Fluency Through Technology (Part I)	2006-10-02
Anonymous	Enhancing Fluency Through Technology (Part I)	2006-10-03
[REDACTED] (in honor of [REDACTED])	Laptop Needed In Technologically Challenged School!	2006-11-13
[REDACTED] (in honor of [REDACTED])	Enhancing Fluency Through Technology (Part I)	2006-09-25
[REDACTED] (in honor of [REDACTED])	Laptop Needed In Technologically Challenged School!	2006-11-13
[REDACTED]	Bringing the World to the Classroom	2006-10-23