



US2020  
Research Triangle Park



**Ignite. Innovate. Inspire.**  
RTPi3 STEM **ESSAY CONTEST**

**#RTPi3 #US2020 #InnovateNC #FromIfToWhen**

Dear Educators,

In this document you will find information regarding US2020 RTP's upcoming essay contest, the "RTPi3: Ignite, Innovate, Inspire Challenge". Please share this information with your 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students so that they may be able to start brainstorming their essay and preparing. We are excited to offer this new opportunity and to be able to make new connections in Buncombe, Brunswick, Guilford, New Hanover, Robeson and Wilson Counties. We are looking forward to reading the exciting and innovative ideas your students create. Any questions can be directed to Tatiana Jenkins, US2020 RTP AmeriCorps VISTA at [jenkins@rtp.org](mailto:jenkins@rtp.org). We greatly appreciate your participation and aid in our efforts to get more students excited about STEM.

Thank you for your time,  
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❖ **What is STEM?**

- STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. US2020 RTP seeks to expand STEM mentoring to diversify STEM fields and get students who may not see themselves on this path to think about their futures in a new way.

❖ **What's the Challenge?**

- “If you had no obstacles & unlimited resources in pursuing a STEM career, how would you ignite an idea, show great innovation or inspire someone else? How would you make a difference in your community?” Seems simple? Maybe changing the world isn't as hard as we thought!

❖ **How do I participate?**

- Are you a 10th-12th grade public school student in Wilson, Asheville/Buncombe, Guilford, Robeson, and Brunswick/New Hanover counties? If so, you are eligible for this contest. All contestants **MUST** type an essay answering the question with no more than 1000 words. Submit your essay to [STEMinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:STEMinthepark@gmail.com) to enter, with your name, grade, school, county clearly listed.

**We will be accepting submissions starting 8 am EST March 4th, 2016 through 5pm EST April 29th, 2016.**

❖ **Feeling Pumped? Try the RTPi3: From If to When Challenge!**

- Go for the gold and submit a 30 second video alongside your essay. In your video be fun, relaxed, and thoughtful. Tell us not just what you would do if you had no obstacles to pursuing a STEM career, but when you are able to achieve your dreams, how will you make a difference? Talk about why your town matters, why your idea deserves to be heard! Videos with the most views will receive a special bonus prize! Not a video production whiz? No problem; to be eligible for the contest, you are only required to write the essay. Video submissions are totally optional.

❖ **Official Rules & Regulations & Deadlines**

- Submissions for the “**RTPi3: Ignite, Innovate, Inspire Challenge**” will open at 8am EST on March 4th, 2016 and close at 5pm EST April 29th, 2016
- All students who participated must currently be enrolled in a public high school in Buncombe, Brunswick, Guilford, New Hanover, Robeson, or

Wilson counties in North Carolina. Students must currently be in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

- All essays will be reviewed first by the US2020 RTP staff. Essays will be narrowed down to 10 finalists. Finalists will be notified of their status and will need to submit a signed photo release form from their parent or guardian proving permission for US2020 RTP, US2020 National, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA, Research Triangle Foundation, Innovate NC and other affiliated partners and stakeholders to use and showcase the students work (essays and videos) , name, and photos on Social Media. Photo releases are provided for educators to copy and provide to participating students.
- Students must upload their videos to Youtube and leave them as unlisted until the video has been screened by US2020RTP Staff. Once approved, students will be notified via email that they have permission to share the video publically and hashtag the video #RTPi3, #US2020, #US2020RTP, #InnovateNC and of course #FromIFtoWHEN. Detailed instructions on how to complete a Youtube upload are attached.
- Students will be provided with a copy of the rubric that their essays and videos will be judged on. Essays must not exceed 1000 words in length. Essay are to follow the five paragraph style of introduction, three body paragraphs, and conclusion. It is not required that students use outside sources. Any student who chooses to do so must cite sources.

#### ❖ **Who is US2020?**

- US2020 RTP is a STEM mentoring outreach program based out of Research Triangle Park, NC. Our goals are to get STEM mentors and opportunities of education and engagement to low income, minority, and female students. We do this by facilitating relationships between STEM companies/professionals and youth serving nonprofits and schools. In addition, we also host our own opportunities of engagements, such as our Expos and now our first STEM Essay Contest.

#### ❖ **What is Innovate NC?**

- Innovate NC is an effort that has been launched by the Institute for Emerging Issues and nine other statewide partners to develop North Carolina's future competitiveness and economic growth. By focusing on 5 communities - Asheville, Greensboro, Pembroke, Wilson, Wilmington and the Carolina Coast, Innovate NC is a 2 year program that is working towards expanding innovation economic economies and strengthening the state as a whole.

*Through working with Innovate NC, US2020 RTP is able to develop its statewide impact, and focus intentionally on the bright students from areas of North Carolina that may have limited access to STEM innovation. This partnership is a powerful extension of the commitment that the Research Triangle Foundation has to the Innovate NC program.*

❖ **Prizes**

- There will be a grand prize winner of the competition. Additionally, the remaining top ten finishers will be recognized for their accomplishment. The winning essayist will also be invited to the STEMmy Awards in late May to be publicly recognized. Our First Annual STEMmy Awards is a new US2020 effort that will recognize our local STEM partners, mentors and schools. This award night will feature a reception with dinner and guest speakers. Top videos will be showcased at the event, and students who are chosen will receive a US2020 Swag Bag filled with cool giveaways.

## RTPi3 Video Contest Instructions:

1. Log in to your YouTube.com account.
2. In the upper right hand corner, click "Upload"
3. Select Upload and choose your video from your saved files.
4. As the video uploads, on the right hand side of your screen you will find a drop down box that says "Public". Click the arrow to change the setting to "Unlisted".
5. Change the title of your video to reflect this: "First Name, Last Name, RTPi3: From If to When Challenge"
6. In the description box, please put your Name, School, Grade and County.
7. Leave the tags box empty until you have been contacted for approval by US2020 RTP.
8. When Processing has completed, click publish or done.
9. Send the link to [STEMinthePark@gmail.com](mailto:STEMinthePark@gmail.com) with your essay submissions.
10. Upon receipt and review you will be notified that your video has been approved to go live.
11. Log into your Youtube account.
12. Go to your [Video Manager](#).
13. Find the video you want to change, then click **Edit**.
14. In the "Privacy Settings" drop-down menu, choose your setting:
  - a. Public
  - b. Unlisted
  - c. PrivateSet your video to public.
15. Click **Save changes**.

Congrats! You may now share this video on Facebook and Twitter. Use hashtags #RTPi3, #US2020, #InnovateNC and #FromIftoWhen. You may also add these tags to your YouTube page.

Please note : All policies of respective websites apply and can be found here.

<https://www.youtube.com/yt/policyandsafety/policy.html>.

<https://support.twitter.com/articles/18311>

<https://www.facebook.com/safety>

	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Creativity/ Originality</b>	I have a very unique idea that approaches the issue in a dynamic and totally new way	I have a fairly unique idea that brings up a number of new approaches	I have an idea that has some new elements mixed with proven ideas	I do not have a truly original idea. I have some elements of blending existing ideas	There is nothing original about my idea.
<b>Support/ Content (x2)</b>	I give multiple clear and accurate reasons to support my idea that fully address the question	I give many clear and accurate reasons, but they only partially address the question	I give some reasons to support my idea, but they do not accurately address the question	I give unclear or inaccurate reasons that do not address the question	I do not give reasons to support my idea and I did not address the question
<b>Structure</b>	I have a clear introduction, body and conclusion in proper paragraph form	I have a mostly clear introduction, body and conclusion in paragraph form	One of my introduction, body or conclusion sections is not clear. My paragraphs are not in proper form	It is difficult to tell whether there is an introduction, body or conclusion. I have sentences, but not paragraphs	My essay is unorganized with no clear paragraph breaks

#RTPi3: Ignite, Innovate, Inspire Challenge



**Parental Consent, Release and Liability Waiver Form for Publication**

Please check one and sign below.

\_\_\_\_ I give permission for photographs, video, and digital images of my child to be submitted and used at the US2020 Research Triangle Park STEMmy Awards, and online via varying social media sites including but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. I grant permission for these materials to be used without compensation by US2020 Research Triangle Park, Research Triangle Foundation, Citizen Schools, US2020 National, and Innovate NC for Web pages, advertising, and/or promotional purposes for the “#RTPi3: Ignite, Innovate, Inspire Challenge” and the “#RTPi3: From If to When Challenge”. By signing below, I am expressly releasing US2020 Research Triangle Park, Research Triangle Foundation, and US2020 National, Citizen Schools, Innovate NC, its agents, employees, licensees, and assignees from any and all claims which I may have for invasion of privacy, right of publicity, defamation, copyright infringement, or any other causes of action arising out of the use, adaptation, reproduction, distribution, broadcast or exhibition of such photographs and digital images.

\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for photographs, video, and digital images of my child to be used.

I sign these agreements on behalf of the student and all parents/guardians of the student.

School & County :

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_