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DFA Challenge Library

Welcome to the DFA Challenge Library! This library is a resource for teams to tackle meaningful projects and simplify the scoping process. The projects listed below have been pre-scoped, which means that each project gives you the tools to jump right in: secondary research, primary research, and HCW statements.

Many Challenges were built from the research conducted by DFA National for the Design Sprint portion of past Summits, and the DFA Days of Summer Project Scoping Jams. The Challenge Library is an ideal project source for **Launching Studios** and **First-time Team Leads** and is also recommended to experienced DFAers who are looking for interesting project topics.

Teams who take on a DFA Challenge receive:

- Weekly remote office hours with DFA National
- A custom Slack Workspace to collaborate with other teams taking on the same DFA Challenge
- Remote design training and tools
- Two virtual critiques to get feedback on your project from DFA Alumni, project partners, other DFA teams, and special guests
- An end-of-term Virtual Expo to share out your project's story and impact with the DFA Network

How to take on a DFA Challenge:

1. Fill out this [Welcome Form](#) to receive support from DFA National and collaborate with other DFA teams working on National Challenges
2. Click on a Challenge below
3. Make a copy in Google Drive or print it out
4. Work through it in your first team meeting!

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Climate Change

Challenge 1, 2, and 3 were generated from 300+ hours of site visits and interviews for Summit 2019

[Challenge 1: People-Powered Policy](#)

How can we support citizens in neighborhoods that are most affected by climate change to have a greater role in shaping local policy?

[Challenge 2: Community Resilience](#)

How can we support neighborhood-based organizations in improving the public health of those hit first and hardest by climate change?

[Challenge 3: Education for Action](#)

How can we leverage connections between community center educators and their audience to teach reducing first, reusing second, and recycling as a last resort in neighborhoods?

Accessibility

[Challenge 1: Helping Travelers of All Abilities Simplify the Travel Planning Process](#) sponsored by [OPEN DOORS ORGANIZATION](#)

How can we provide the disability community with accurate, updated information while allowing facilities to complete a self-assessment on the accessibility of their site?

- Open Doors Organization is an accessibility advocacy group based in Chicago that works with businesses to address accessibility. Open Doors Organization is thrilled to partner with DFA teams to identify ways to simplify the travel experience for those with disabilities.

Education

Challenge 1, 2, and 3 were generated from 300+ hours of site visits and interviews for Summit 2018. Challenge 4 was created Summer 2020 by DFA students and alumni on the DFA Days of Summer Project Scoping Jam Quality Education Team.

Challenge 1: **Building Strong Mentor Relationships**

How can we leverage high school students' existing relationships on campus to promote mentorship and personal growth?

Challenge 2: **Improving Mental Health**

How can we destigmatize mental health among high schoolers on campus?

Challenge 3: **Increasing Career Awareness and Readiness**

How can we give high school students more agency in navigating their own career paths?

Challenge 4: **Supporting Teachers & Student Autonomy**

How can we provide teachers with the support to create more autonomy in the classroom?

Future of Work

Challenge 1: **Encouraging Social Intrapreneurs** sponsored by **STEELCASE**

How can we activate and amplify changemakers in companies for social impact?

- Steelcase is the world's leader in office and workspace experiences. It is vital to their work to consider where the future of work is headed and what younger generations are asking of their workplaces. Millennials and Generation Z are driving the [Purpose Revolution](#), and part of that means finding ways to create a culture of changemaking within companies.

Voting

Challenge 1 was generated from 300+ hours of research for the 2016 and 2020 election cycles

Challenge 1: **Increasing Voter Engagement**

How can we better engage eligible, unregistered voters?

Civic Engagement

Challenge 1 was created in Summer 2020 by DFA students and alumni on the DFA Days of Summer Project Scoping Jam Civic Engagement Team.

Challenge 1: Ethical Student Community Engagement

How can we help students in higher education institutionally, ethically, and sustainably engage with communities in their area?

Food

Challenge 1 was created in Summer 2020 by DFA students and alumni on the DFA Days of Summer Project Scoping Jam Food: Access + Impact Team.

Challenge 1: Insecurity + Caretaker Communities

How can we sustainably equip communities to address the obstacles that caretakers face when dealing with food insecurity?

Health + Wellness

Challenge 1 was created in Summer 2020 by DFA students and alumni on the DFA Days of Summer Project Scoping Jam Mental + Physical Health Team.

Challenge 1: Mental Health of Frontline Workers

How can we create a system that supports the mental needs of frontline workers now and during the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic?