

# The Great Computer Challenge

## Internet: Web Page

### Level III and IV

WHEN YOU FINISH, LEAVE YOUR COMPUTER ON AND OPEN AT THE HOME PAGE OF YOUR SITE. YOUR TEAM MAY BE DISQUALIFIED IF YOU DO NOT.

At 9:45 the judges will be available to answer your questions about the rules and the problem. All teams (or a representative of their choice) are advised to attend. Teachers/parents/advisers will not be allowed to attend. The judges will not answer questions after that session, so study the problem carefully and come prepared to ask your questions, but make sure they are not answered somewhere in this document (see the FAQ at the end).

**BIG HINT:** Want to win the Challenge? The easiest way is to read these directions carefully and do what they say. That is what winning teams have done in previous years. The judges will penalize teams that do not follow these directions! In previous years, good entries have lost because they ignored key parts of the rules stated in this document.

**TIP #1:** Organize your time. Make a schedule and decide how much time you will devote to each task: viewing files, dividing content into pages, linking up pages, etc. Allocate time at the end of the contest to testing the site and fixing problems.

**TIP #2:** Work as a team. Successful teams decide who will do what, and do not waste time fighting about the design. Many professional web developers sketch each page on paper before they even start writing HTML on a computer. Answer questions like: “How will the user navigate from page to page?”, “Where will buttons go?”, “What will be the same on every page?”

#### Your Challenge

A company named IdolTube is trying to create a website similar to YouTube with a focus on showcasing user submitted singing auditions (American Idol style). The premise being that users could submit their own videos to allow other users of the website to rate those videos. The highest rated video may receive a prize and some sort of publicity at the end of each month. The company has provided a logo and three sample videos. Your challenge is to design a site illustrating the features that you would expect to see in a video sharing site with this focus, but with any additional ideas that your group can contribute. They are only looking for a good looking mock-up full of features to be able to show investors, that is, it does not need to be a fully functional website.

The following elements must be included in the mock-ups. Any additional ideas are welcomed, but these are required:

- 1) A way of navigating between the videos (There will be many videos on the site, only three are currently provided. The mockup should indicate how a user would find additional videos). Three of these should have working pages (you can use the three videos provided).
- 2) Advertising space (how the company will make money)

You have been supplied with storage containing:

- Three videos and an example in the “flash videos and example” folder. Images of the player have been included in case you can’t get the flash video to work.
- The logo in .png and .psd in the “logo” folder
- The flash video player source and documentation in the “flash video player source and docs” folder.

**HINT:** You will not necessarily need the flash player source files or documentation, but if you finish early and want to try for the technical criteria, the documentation can help you figure out how those customizations are done.

## Rules

- You may use your own graphics.
- You may not use existing pages. The judging criteria include "Originality and creativity" so a team making extensive use of templates, pre-built pages or software that "automatically" makes pages or similar resources should expect to receive low evaluations on these criteria.

## Judging Criteria

The judges are looking for a clean, simple site that communicates the information easily and effectively.

The judges will rank the entries according to the following criteria:

### Design Criteria:

- Adherence to the rules and the challenge described above
- Creativity and originality
- Ease of navigation
- Organization of information
- Visual appeal
- Consistency of design
- The judges will consider the filesize of pages and graphics and the impact to users with slower internet connections.
- Effective use of graphics, color, and fonts

### Technical Criteria:

- Valid use of web standards
- Customization of the flash video player (adding a watermark, using preview images, etc...)
- Maintainability (the use of CSS, relative links, dynamically included menu files, etc...)
- Pages served from a local web server instead of straight from the file system (since this is new this year and would require some preparation it will not be weighed heavily, but teams in the past have had a Web Server running on the laptop and the judges were impressed).

All design criteria are weighed equally, but to ensure a level playing field, "Adherence to the rules and the challenge described above" is most important. See "Big Hint" at the top of this document. Since this is a web design competition, the judges will only use the technical criteria to decide a winner if they rate two or more teams at an equal level on the design criteria. This means you should not dwell on the technical, save that for if you have finished and have a great looking site and nothing else to do.

The judges can only evaluate what they can see. If they cannot operate your computer, open your web site or find your pages, you will be disqualified. Again, leave your computer switched on and open at the home page when you have finished. If your computer displays a screen saver after a period of inactivity and a password is required to reactivate it, disable the screen saver. The same applies if the computer switches off automatically after a period of inactivity. Laptop computers should be connected to AC power outlets in case batteries run out. The judging period is short and it would be unfair to other teams for judges to take time away from judging entries to fix problems with computers.

By entering the contest, you are giving your school's permission to post your entries on the web.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can we use clip art?**

Yes

### **Can we use Flash, JavaScript, Active-X, RealAudio etc.?**

Yes, you can use anything you like, but they will not necessarily improve your score.

### **Can we use tools like Frontpage, Dreamweaver, Home Site, etc?**

Yes.

### **Can we make up our own text?**

Yes. If you want to add or edit the text supplied to you, you can.

### **Do we have to use all the videos, graphics and photos supplied to us?**

No

### **We want to use a "splash page" before entering the web site. Is that our home page?**

The judges will start at whatever page is left open on your computer when they start judging it.

### **Will the judges give us feedback about our entry?**

Unfortunately, time available for judging is very limited in the Great Computer Challenge, especially with the number of entries in this category. The judges want to be fair to every team so cannot undertake to write comments because it would take away time from evaluating each entry thoroughly. The judges' decision is final, even when they are wrong!

### **Do we have to print out our pages?**

No. The judges will only judge what they see on your computer screen.

### **What if something goes wrong with our computer/printer/monitor?**

Do the best with what you have working. Save frequently, so that even if you cannot finish, the judges can judge what you have been able to do. Room monitors cannot fix equipment, and neither can the judges. See the challenge rules if you have questions.

### **What if we have other questions?**

You will have an opportunity to ask questions about the challenge and the rules at 9:45 in the designated room. The monitor cannot answer your questions after that, and neither can the judges.

### **What if I don't have the flash player installed on my computer for the videos?**

You will not be docked points for using the still images in place of the flash video, however if another team has an equally well designed page, the technical criteria would come into consideration.

**Good luck, have fun, and enjoy the challenge!**