

# Diamond Challenge



## Diamond Challenge Semifinalist Mentoring Guide

### Preparation Information

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#### About Us

[The Diamond Challenge](#) is the catalyst that propels high school entrepreneurs to the next level through transformative feedback, meaningful connections and resources. Through our top-rated entrepreneurship competition for high school students, teens can win tens of thousands in prizes to fund their ideas or education. The Diamond Challenge is for any teen from any location with any idea.

#### Competition Process & Team Selection Process

- Teams have gone through two rounds of the competition thus far (the first round of the competition, the submission round, and the second round of the competition, the pitching round). During the submission round, teams submitted a 3-5 page written concept narrative and pitch deck. During the pitching round, teams either pitched live at a [pitch event around the world](#), or pitched virtually by submitting a pitch video.
- All teams are required to submit and pitch in English throughout the competition, but **not** all semifinalists' first or second language will be English.
- The Diamond Challenge Team selects 70 of the top teams from around the world to serve as semifinalists. These semifinalists are invited to pitch three times to three separate panels of judges in the semifinal round at [the Diamond Challenge Summit](#), hosted at the University of Delaware in April. Teams have the opportunity to learn from

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world-class speakers, entrepreneurs, mentors, forge life-long connections and win prizes!

## Team Submission Materials

- Teams do **NOT** need to revise or re-submit a written concept narrative for the semifinal round. The written concept narrative is only submitted during the first round of the competition.

## Judging Criteria

- Please do **NOT** share the judge rubrics with any of the students to ensure the fairness of the competition is upheld.
- Review our judge rubrics located in your [mentor toolkit](#) so you have a frame of reference regarding how the teams will be assessed in the semifinal round.

## Communications with Teams

- For all formal Diamond Challenge mentoring sessions listed on the [SignUpGenius](#), it is expected that mentors will connect with mentees via video chat. Separate additional conversations are welcomed and encouraged.
- We recognize that some high school students are more communicative than others. **Please let the Diamond Challenge Team know if any of your teams are unresponsive**, and we will reach out accordingly. We sincerely apologize in advance for any delayed communications from the students.
- We recognize because of the nature of the Diamond Challenge as a global competition, sometimes there are unforeseen mentorship challenges. If you ever feel that there is a cultural or language barrier that you are having difficulties overcoming, please contact the Diamond Challenge Team immediately so we can work to rectify the situation.

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## Deadlines

- All of your mentoring sessions will be hosted **between February 26 – April 15**.
- The semifinalist mentor [feedback form](#) is due no later than **Wednesday, April 15**.

## **Mentoring Process**

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### Sign-Up Process

- All semifinalists will sign up for mentoring slots via [SignUpGenius](#). Teams will select their slots based on interest and mentoring expertise.
- Sign-ups will close **4 days prior** to the scheduled mentoring session.
- Teams can sign up for a maximum of **two mentoring slots**.

### Mentoring Reminders

- Reminders will be sent to both the mentor and mentees **4 days prior** to the scheduled mentoring session.
- The team's previous submission materials (a written concept narrative, pitch deck and pitch video (for teams competing virtually only)) will be emailed to you **4 days prior** to your scheduled mentoring session(s).

### Video Conference Platforms

- The Diamond Challenge Team will create Zoom meetings for you and share the meeting details with you and the semifinalists, unless you indicated a different platform preference when signing up for mentoring.

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- If you indicated that you prefer a different video conferencing platform, the Diamond Challenge Team will reach out via email requesting your meeting link, username, etc.

## Proposed Mentoring Agenda

The agenda is set up to guide your mentoring conversations. Feel free to deviate and add your own insights to each conversation. You are the expert!

### 1. Introduction

- Describe your background/expertise
- Highlight your passions/interests
- Have the team note their experiences, expertise, passions/interests

### 2. Team Goals

- What do they hope to get out of the mentoring session(s)? **(It may be beneficial to request this information prior to the meeting's start.)**
- Discuss their goals (Diamond Challenge, personal and professional)

### 3. Purpose

- Reiterate that you are here to serve as a resource to them so they are as prepared as possible during the semifinal round of the Diamond Challenge
- Reiterate that you are a mentor with extensive entrepreneurship experience

### 4. Specific pain points

- What areas do they specifically believe they need assistance with? (prototyping, solution validation, pitching, communicating the unique value, etc.)
- What kind of feedback did they receive from judges thus far? Have them explain what the judges disclosed to the team.
  - **Please Note:** Teams are **guaranteed** to receive feedback during the submission round (the first round of the Diamond Challenge). If the team competed virtually, they are guaranteed to receive additional feedback on their pitch and pitch deck during the pitching round (the second round)

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of the Diamond Challenge). If the team competed live, they may or may not have received additional feedback on their pitch and pitch deck during the pitching round.

## 5. Pitching

- Have them pitch their concept in 1-2 sentences
- Have them present their five-minute pitch
  - **Please Note:** Teams will have five minutes to pitch, and three minutes for judge Q&A

## 6. Q&A

- Ask the students questions based on the judging rubric
  - Does their pitch address those topic areas?
  - Where is the team “lacking”?
  - Did the team address the concerns previous judges expressed?
  - What questions do you have based on what the team pitched? What areas are still unclear?

## 7. Follow-Up & Goal-Setting

- Help the team identify at least one adjustment they can work on leading up to the Summit
  - Do they need to clean up their deck, shorten their pitch, better prepare for the judges questions, etc.? Is their problem clear? Is their solution going to solve the problem? Is their solution validated? Is their concept creative and innovative?
- Ensure that the next steps are tangible

## 8. Closing

- Do the team members have any questions for you as a mentor?