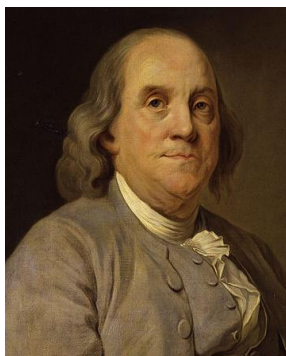# Voorhees Middle School's
Fostering Action for a Stronger Tomorrow (F.A.S.T.) Program

America has a history of developing new ideas and creating things that change society, politics, technology, and humanity. This pioneering spirit has been important to the United States becoming the wonderful country it is today - from the first "explorers" to the moon landing, from the Industrial Revolution to the Internet Age. Americans have created modern democracy, turned the dark to light, and cured incurable diseases.

Your project is to continue this American sense of inspiration, innovation, and achievement by **developing a new initiative that will have a positive impact on "the community."** The community may be our school, your neighborhood, Voorhees Township, or an even larger area – it's up to you!

Some possibilities could include:
- developing an activity to raise awareness of an important issue
- inventing a product / "technology"
- creating a new "community service" program
- conducting a social experiment/survey to better understand people and/or our community
- coming up with a new business idea

The general steps that would be involved include: (tentative DUE DATES – subject to change)

Step 1: Identifying a problem that needs to be addressed   (QUIZ grade – Jan 8)

Step 2: Evaluating previous efforts have related to this issue   (TEST grade – Jan 27)

Step 3: Brainstorming new solutions/approaches   (QUIZ grade – Feb 19)

Step 4: Consider the options - resources needed, limitations, "net impact", etc.   (TEST grade –Mar 18)

Step 5: Plan carefully - Who? What? Where? When? How?!   (TEST grade – Apr 22)

Step 6: DO IT! (TEST grade – May 27)

Why should I do this?
This is a **voluntary project** that will last throughout the year. It will provide you with a chance to take things you learn in school and use them to make a difference in the world around you. It will challenge you to be creative, work hard, and keep going even when you feel like giving up. In other words, it will prepare you to be a future leader!

Besides helping you grow as a person, you will receive a **100 for a Test or Quiz** as "**extra credit**" for each step that you successfully complete – provided you gave it an honest effort. If you **choose** to do **the F.A.S.T. project**, it can **ONLY HELP your grade**.

Step #1 – Identifying a Problem: To begin the process, you will want to consider things that you are interested in or care about in your life. This will give you more motivation to get it done AND help the "work" be more enjoyable. It may be related to a hobby you enjoy. Perhaps there something that you do frequently and could come up with a method or "invention" to help people do it "better". It may even be an illness that a friend or family member has experienced. These are just examples. The possibilities are, literally, endless!

Identifying a Problem
My personal interests/concerns include:
I've considered working with _____ but decided against it because
I've considered working with _____ but decided against it because
I've considered working with _____ but decided against it because
Describe the problem you will try to address:
Why do you want to work with this particular issue?

Step #2: Evaluating Prior/Current Efforts – While there are many problems in the world, most of them have received some sort of attention already. It is very helpful to become familiar with how other people have tried to address this issue. Not only can you learn from the mistakes of some people, you can also borrow ideas and build on the earlier success of others.

Doing Your Research		
Person/Organization	What have they done?	What can you learn from this?

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Step #3: Brainstorming New Solutions – When you're trying to come up with something new, you have to free your mind and come up with all kinds of ideas. When they "brainstorm", people often write down anything they think. Some of it may be TOTALLY unrelated and that's ok. Sometimes, the best ideas come from the strangest initial thoughts!

For this step, think about **anything** that could possibly help address your problem and write it down. – even if it seems disconnected, crazy, or unrealistic.

Brainstorming

Step #4: Consider your Options – Take some of the ideas from your brainstorming and think about them in a bit more detail. Think about how feasible the idea is, what you would need to do it, what are the good/bad points of this idea, and what the "final effect" could be.

Considering Your Options			
Idea #1:			
Resources needed:	Pros	Cons	Predicted Final Result:
Idea #2:			
Resources needed:	Pros	Cons	Predicted Final Result:
Idea #3:			
Resources needed:	Pros	Cons	Predicted Final Result:
Idea #4:			
Resources needed:	Pros	Cons	Predicted Final Result:
Idea #5:			
Resources needed:	Pros	Cons	Predicted Final Result:

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Step #5: Plan your Project – Now that you've consider some different idea, which one(s) seem like the best way to address your problem and accomplish your goal? The planning process can be VERY involved and will take a while to complete. This "worksheet" is just some simple documentation of your project planning.

Name of Project:	Who is working on it?

Problem to be addressed: (explain in 2- 5 clear sentences)

Goal:

What will you do to accomplish this goal?!

Location of Project:	When?	

Resources needed (equipment, money, space, volunteers, etc.)

√	Timeframe	Steps for Action Plan	Who can/will do it?
		1.	
		2.	
		3.	
		4.	
		5.	
		6.	
		7.	
		8.	
		9.	
		10.	

Step #6: Getting it done! Now that you have planned out your project, it's time to do the work involved with it. You are encouraged to keep a journal of your project's progress as each step is accomplished – what are you doing well, what could you improve, who have you asked to help, etc. This journal is for your own reference.

As the project is completed, you will be asked to demonstrate you work to your teacher(s). Depending on the details of your particular project, this could be done in many ways including:

- handing in a brief report/PowerPoint about your project complete with pictures
- bringing in a final product to class
- holding a special event at school
- holding a special event in the community (with a teacher there to participate?)
- creating a web site to publicize your new product, business, or charity