



YOUTH DRIVING LEARNING

Imagine a world where you drive your own learning, and everything you learn is linked to your passions and goals, today and tomorrow.

WHAT IS THE GRIPTAPE LEARNING CHALLENGE?

The Griptape Learning Challenge is a call to action to youth ages 15–19 years old to design, create, and execute their own learning journeys. What is an idea, topic, or skill you’ve always wanted to learn? An experience you can invent, design, and drive yourself? Past Challengers have learned about rap communities, coding, fashion design, girls’ wrestling, drawing, mixing music, blockchain technology, cryptocurrencies, social justice, the brain, and teaching. All you have to do is tell us who you are, answer 4 application questions, and if selected, we’ll give you the opportunity and support to pursue what you are passionate about. Learn more at griptape.org.



WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

As a Challenger, you’re in charge of deciding what you explore and planning how you’ll do it. We give you full decision-making authority over the what, when, where, how, and why of your learning; grants up to \$500 to ignite your passion; a Champion to offer encouragement; and up to ten weeks to complete your journey.



Learn more at griptape.org!

“The Learning Challenge helped me realize how much impact I can have on people around me, and I am much more inclined to try new things with future impact in mind. I learned that each learning experience is what you make and get out of it, and that it takes focus and dedication to learn to do something.”

– Former Griptape Challenger

Questions? Check out our [FAQ](#) or contact us at griptape.applications@americaachieves.org.



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What's next if I'm selected to be a Challenger?

You'll be contacted by your Champion (a GripTape volunteer who supports and encourages you throughout your learning journey), and together you'll schedule a good time for a video call to talk about what you want to learn during your Challenge.

You can begin your learning journey at any time whether it's before or when you get your grant — it's up to you! We'll get the grant processed and sent as soon you've completed the first steps outlined in our welcome email. You'll have up to 10 weeks to carry out your Challenge, but all learning journeys must be finished by the final date your Champion shares.

You'll have regular check-in calls with your Champion at a time that's convenient for you.

You're part of the GripTape community forever, so you'll be able to connect with other young people on the Youth Squad and GripTape will keep sharing new opportunities even after your Challenge ends.



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The GripTape Learning Challenge is a call to action to youth ages 15–19 years old to design, create, and execute their own learning journeys. Read what GripTape youth have to say about their experiences.

“My learning journey has allowed me to gain confidence in my ability to overcome obstacles and see problems through to the end.”

“I have seen my potential as a teenager. I think that is one thing that others must realize: Once you understand what you are capable of, you can open doors yourself instead of waiting for them to open for you.”

“I had never been in a situation where I was in charge of everything. You have to be really responsible, have social awareness, and learn to work with everyone. [This experience] was very impactful for me and has started me thinking about what I want to do in life.”

“You are able to learn whatever you want to learn. You can explore your passions, discover new ones, and learn life skills. For anyone who is thinking about applying for the Learning Challenge, this was a life-altering experience for me and has helped me to grow as a person. My experience with GripTape gave me the tools to do everything I am doing now.”

“This program is for anybody with a dream and the drive to accomplish it.”



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LEARNING CHALLENGE APPLICATION TIPS

There is no one-size fits all approach to a strong Learning Challenge application because every Challenger is different in how they learn, how they define success, and what they're passionate about. We also know that applying for the Learning Challenge can be a difficult process trying to communicate your ideas to express what you're passionate about learning, so we've included some helpful pointers from former Challengers and GripTape staff below.

APPLICATION TIPS

- Remember that we're not judging your essay-writing abilities or your grammar or vocabulary. We are looking to understand what you are passionate about.
- We accept all mediums of submitting your application, so feel free to submit art, a video, poetry, a voice recording — or any other medium that allows you to convey what you are passionate about in the way that is best for you.
- We want to understand how you believe the Learning Challenge will impact your success, now or in the future. **Remember, success means different things for everyone; we want you to elaborate on how YOU define success and how your Challenge will help you achieve that.**
- Check out former Challengers on [our website](#) to see how other youth have framed their applications; they may inspire you! Below are examples of strong applications we've received in the past:
 - [Video](#)
 - [Visual Art](#)
 - [Essay-Style Email](#)

FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

If you have any questions about the application process, GripTape, or the Learning Challenge, please email griptape.applications@americaachieves.org and a Youth Leader, GripTape team member, or former Challenger will reach out to you.



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How to Prepare Your Learning Challenge Application

We're SO excited you're interested in the GripTape Learning Challenge, and eager to know what you're passionate about and how you plan to learn about it!

GripTape Learning Challenge Guidelines:

- You're completely in charge of deciding what topic/skills you explore and how you do it.
- Your learning doesn't depend on school, so you can do this on your own outside of class.
- No more than 1/3 of your time in the Challenge is spent in adult-led experiences like classes, camp, or study abroad programs.
- You can use your grant and complete your Challenge in up to 10 weeks.
- You are between 15 and 19 years old.
- You live or go to school in the U.S.

What to Think About Before You Apply:

We'll ask for some basic information in the online application, and you'll need to answer these four questions to apply for the Challenge:

1. What topic or skills are you planning to explore throughout this Challenge? Why are you passionate about this?
2. How will this learning help you be successful, now or in the future?
3. What are your goals for your Challenge? What do you hope to learn?
4. How do you plan to accomplish your goals?

Decide how you want to submit your answers. It could be as a poem, video, song, essay, presentation, voice recording — or something else! These answers are where you get to tell us, in detail, what you want to pursue with this opportunity. Inspire us!

After the online section where we ask for some basic information, you'll see a question asking how you want to submit your answers to the four main questions listed above. There are several options, including:

- Written in the online application form
- Emailed to us at griptape.applications@americaachievers.org
- Included as a digital link to your application materials in the online application form. Some past Challengers have answered the questions in the form of a poem, song, PowerPoint, video, or voice recording.

Please note that you must complete the online application form in one session, regardless of how you choose to share the responses to the four main application questions. Visit griptape.org to learn more.

Thanks, and good luck!

The GripTape Team