

Website Design*: 2010-2011 Middle School Design Brief **“It’s Just an Oil Spill”**

I. Context

On April 20, 2010, an offshore drilling rig exploded and started one of the largest natural disasters in the history of the Gulf region of the U.S. The impact of this one single event and the subsequent oil spill that occurred may forever change the economic and political landscape of the Gulf states. Due to the rapidly changing events and broad impact of the spill, the World Wide Web has played a huge role in telling the tale of this ongoing crisis.

II. Challenge Statement

Design a series of web pages that address the events leading to the spill, the efforts of private and government entities to address the crisis, and the role of technology in the clean-up. A comprehensive timeline of the events, both pre and post spill, should be included in your solution. The timeline should reflect the political, social, and economic impact of the spill.

As a part of your solution your team will need to address the economic, social, and political effects of this event on the Gulf region and on the U.S as a whole. How has this event affected the people living in the communities along the shore? How has it affected American views of offshore drilling? These are just a few examples of what should be included in your solution.

Further, your solution should contain information that focuses on the role of technology in the attempts to stop the spill and the clean-up efforts.

Participants are to be objective and unbiased; a solution that only presents one side of the story will be awarded fewer points. Care should be taken to present a fair and unbiased discussion of the events, the social and economic impact, and the likely ramifications of future oil drilling in the Gulf area.

You may choose how to organize the required information within the boundaries of the competition rules. Teams that develop an effective and user friendly means of providing the most pertinent information will be the most successful.

III. Solution Limitations

The URL submitted must be a site designed by the team that features the solution to the design brief. Be very careful NOT TO PLAGIARIZE information from other sources. Give credit where credit is due. For further details about the competition and important deadline information, carefully review the rules and regulations for Website Design in *2010 & 2011 Middle School Technology Activities, National TSA Conference Competitive Events Guide*.

IV. Evaluation

The solution must show sufficient evidence that the chapter’s Website Design team has addressed the requirements in the design brief challenge statement (see above, II. Challenge Statement). The assessment rubric in the middle school competitive events guide will be used to evaluate each entry. *For specific information about MS Website Design, carefully read the most current event rules and regulations. If further clarification is needed, please contact the event manager, Ricky Broussard, at rbroussard@mesquiteisd.org.* Include the words “WEBSITE DESIGN” in your subject line in order to ensure a prompt response.

*The middle school level competition entitled **Website Design** was formerly named **Cyberspace Pursuit**.

Because it is such a significant change, please note the following information related to a contest guideline that changed after the Competitive Events Guide was released last year.

MS Website Design

Procedure C. (page 281) should read:

Participants design a website that features the chapter’s research findings on the topic posed in the event design brief.