



Dear [TEAM LEAD NAME],

Congratulations! Your submission to the [Year] Big Ideas Competition was selected as a finalist, and your project team will move on to the full-proposal round! Your project [PROJECT NAME] was selected as a finalist from over [#] submissions received in this year's contest, reflecting the high caliber of your project. We believe your idea has great potential, and we look forward to working with you as you develop your full proposal.

Attached to this email, please find the following documents: a) comments from judges who reviewed your submission, and b) a mentor matching application. The judges' comments will provide you with constructive tips for how to strengthen your proposal in the next round of the competition.

All finalists have the opportunity to work with a mentor who can assist you in writing your full proposal during the spring semester. Although working with a mentor is not required, we encourage you to take advantage of the coaching and expertise a mentor can offer.

The mentor matching worksheets will be due by December 17th. By Friday, January 18th we will contact you with your mentor match and distribute the full-proposal guidelines with detailed information on the final round of the Big Ideas Contest.

Finally, in addition to submitting a full proposal, you will have the option of entering the Big Ideas People's Choice Video Contest for a chance to win an additional [AWARD AMOUNT] prize. The Video Contest is an opportunity for all teams who entered this year's contest to create a three-minute video pitch of their idea to the public. Big Ideas will email detailed Video Contest guidelines to all teams in January, but you can start brainstorming now!

Congratulations again!

Sincerely,
[FIRST NAME LAST NAME]
The Big Ideas Team
[EMAIL]
[PHONE]



Dear [NAME OF STUDENT],

Thank you for your recent application to the [Year] Big Ideas Contest. The decision-making process was a difficult one, with many innovative project teams vying for a limited amount of finalist slots.

We are sorry to inform you that your project, [PROJECT NAME], was not selected to move on to the final round of the contest. Please do not interpret this to mean that your idea was not a good one. Rather, our decision reflects the caliber and intensity of this year's Competition.

Please note that although you were not selected as a finalist, we encourage you to enter the Big Ideas People's Choice Video Contest. The Video Contest is an opportunity for all teams who entered this year's contest to create a three-minute video pitch of their idea. These pitches will be posted online, and the public will have the opportunity to vote on the video with the most inventive project idea. The project with the most votes will be selected as the winner and will receive an [AWARD AMOUNT] award. Big Ideas will email detailed Video Contest guidelines to all teams in the spring semester.

Should you like written feedback on your pre-proposal, please email [EMAIL], and we will provide comments from the judges who reviewed your submission. Our graduate student assistants will also continue to hold office hours in the spring semester, and they are happy to discuss ways in which you can strengthen your proposal or project idea. If you want to schedule an appointment with a graduate student assistant, please email [EMAIL].

Again, thank you for applying to Big Ideas.

Sincerely,

[FIRST NAME LAST NAME]

The Big Ideas Team

[EMAIL]

[PHONE]