



THE COLLEGIATE BLACK MALE
NETWORK[®]
National Leadership Institute

**Case Study Scholarship
Competition**



The Collegiate Black Male Network

Welcome & Background

The Case Study Competition is designed to challenge undergraduate students by applying their experience, training, and critical thinking skills to examine complex issues within the realm of collegiate Black male student success. Students are asked to work in pairs to discern major players, themes and possible solutions in a timed presentation. The Case Study Competition is judged by a panel of professionals. Awards will be given in the following categories for “Best Problem Solving,” “Best Communication,” and “Best Overall Presentation” which will be announced at the National Leadership Institute Gala. We see the Case Study competition as a way to challenge students who are looking for an in-depth leadership training opportunity.

A Case Study Competition can seem scary and daunting. A lot of questions might be running through your head of what to expect? How will I be judged? How do I prepare? This preparation guide is designed to prepare competitors to answer these questions and to understand judging criteria. This is considered a one stop guide to prepare students for the task ahead. This document contains your case, judging forms, and other things to note.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tim Johnson at tjohnson@theebmnetwork.org.



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Expectations & Overview

Competition Details

- You will work in teams of 2.
 - You are required to attend the Competition Meeting on Friday, June 20th, from 8:30am–9:00am. At this meeting, you will receive your case study presentation time.
 - Your case study presentation should be 7 minutes long, and you should be prepared to respond to 3 minutes of questions.
 - In the case study room, there will be 3 judges who will provide scoring on your presentation.
- Scoring will be used to tabulate award winners.
- Scoring sheets and attached notes will be available for pick-up at the end of the day.

2 People per team 7 Minute per presentation 3 Minutes for questions

Judging Criteria

When preparing for the Case Study Competition, it can be helpful to understand the Judging Criteria. Below are questions that we provide to the Case Study Competition judges. When practicing or prepping for the competition, you should keep these questions in mind:

Did the students address the issues outlined for them?

What is the problem?

Why is it a problem?

What are the important issues to consider?

Whose problem is it?

Who should be involved in addressing the problem?

What are the possible solutions to the problem?

How can you incorporate any research theories in your solution to the problem?

What is your recommendation for solving the problem?

What issues may arise as a result of implementing this solution?

Note: A strong Case Study presentation addresses the answers to these questions without specifically listing out each question you are addressing.



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Understanding the Judges

Being a case study competitor involves understanding one's craft, the task at hand and how one is evaluated/judged. Preparing for the Case study is no different. Tips we provide judges are listed below but with some competitor translations.

Were the students prepared and organized when presenting?

NOTE: An example of being prepared is having note cards to use as a reference, but not reading them verbatim during your presentation. Making eye contact with the judges is always a plus.

Did the students remain inside the 7 minute time limit?

NOTE: You should be prepared for 7 minutes of presenting and then an additional 3 minutes of questions from the judges.

Were the students professional during their presentation?

NOTE: Language, behavior, and dress are all important aspects to giving a professional presentation.

Did both students participate in the presentation?

NOTE: Your presentation should not be dominated by one individual. You are a team, after all.

Does their solution make sense? Is it a functional and acceptable response and reaction to the case study presented?

NOTE: Essentially, within the context of the case, how feasible is your response/solution?

Did the group adequately support their assumptions and statements?

NOTE: When beginning your presentation, it's okay to outline some assumptions that you may be making about the situation. Please make sure that you are supporting these assumptions with your solution.

Did the group communicate creatively and effectively?

NOTE: Eye contact. Body language. Working as a team. These are all important aspects to effective communication.

Did the group adequately answer the questions you posed?

NOTE: If there are specific questions posed in the case study, then you will want to make sure you answer/address them.



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Case Study Scenario

Johnson University, nestled in the heart of a vibrant urban community, has long been regarded as a beacon of academic excellence and cultural heritage. As an esteemed Historically Black College and University (HBCU), Johnson prides itself on its rich history, commitment to diversity, and dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders. However, despite its accolades, Johnson University is confronted with a pressing challenge: the retention and graduation rates of its Black male students.

Within the halls of Johnson, Black male students embark on their academic journeys with dreams of success and aspirations of making a meaningful impact in their communities. Yet, despite their potential and determination, many find themselves grappling with barriers that impede their progress. Financial constraints weigh heavily on their minds, as they navigate the complexities of tuition costs, textbook expenses, and living expenses. Despite the availability of scholarships and financial aid, these students often find themselves struggling to make ends meet, forced to juggle multiple jobs while balancing their academic responsibilities.

Moreover, the journey of a Black male student at Johnson University is not just one of academic pursuit but also one of identity exploration and cultural affirmation. While Johnson is an HBCU, there are some students who still grapple with feelings of isolation and alienation. Despite the supportive community at Johnson, which celebrates diversity and champions inclusivity, these students yearn for mentors and role models who understand their experiences and can offer guidance and support.

Compounding these challenges are societal pressures and systemic inequalities that permeate every aspect of their lives. From navigating the criminal justice system to confronting racial profiling and discrimination, Black male students at Johnson are confronted with injustices that threaten to derail their academic pursuits and dampen their spirits. Despite their resilience and determination, many find themselves questioning their place in higher education and wondering if their dreams are within reach.

Against this backdrop of adversity, Johnson University is committed to fostering an environment where Black male students can thrive and succeed. From academic support services to mentorship programs, the institution has implemented various initiatives to support the holistic development of its students. Yet, despite these efforts, the gap in retention and graduation rates persists, serving as a stark reminder of the work that lies ahead.

As the leaders of tomorrow, the fate of these young men rests in the hands of the Johnson community. It is incumbent upon faculty, staff, administrators, and fellow students to come together to address the root causes of this disparity and chart a path forward towards equity and inclusion. Only by recognizing the unique challenges faced by Black male students and implementing targeted interventions can Johnson University fulfill its mission of cultivating success and empowering all students to realize their full potential.



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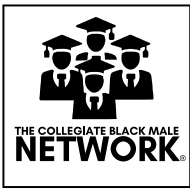
Additional Questions for Consideration

In addition to the judging criteria listed, here are additional questions to consider when building your case:

Identifying Barriers: What are the primary barriers hindering Black male success and graduation rates at Johnson University? How do these barriers differ from those faced by other student demographics?

Engagement Strategies: How can Johnson University enhance engagement among Black male students both inside and outside the classroom? What programs or initiatives could be implemented to foster a sense of belonging and community?

Support Systems: What comprehensive support systems can Johnson University establish to address the multifaceted needs of Black male students, including financial support, mentorship, and peer networks?



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Sample Judging Form

Team Member 1:

Team Member 2:

Criteria	1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5 (Highest)	Comments
Addressed all key issues in case study						
Prepared & Organized						
Professionalism						
Teamwork						
Problem-Solving Ability						
Communication Skills						
Creativity						
Overall Presentation						

Total Score:

Did the team stay within the time limit? Yes No

Which awards should this team be considered for?

Additional Comments: