



Polycom Special Event: Defeating the Distance

Date	Monday, March 31, 2014
Time:	1-2:00 p.m. ET
Grade Level:	9-12 grades
<p><i>For further information, please contact Elaine Shuck, elaine.shuck@polycom.com or Sue Porter, polycomspecialevents@gmail.com</i></p>	
<p>Lesson Overview: Students hear and interview runner, Jennifer Tessitore, about her entry into this year's Boston Marathon sponsored by the Multiple Myeloma Race for Research. Students will gather information for their essay on why "they" (in the person of real-life Jennifer) should be selected by the Foundation for one of the few 2014 Boston Marathon bibs or why an organization of their choice is worthy of their support.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LEARN: Students will learn as they acquire background knowledge about the Boston Marathon, Multiple Myeloma, Jennifer Tessitore 2. ACT: Students will act as they participate in the IVC with other schools to interview Jennifer Tessitore 3. REFLECT: Students will reflect through an essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why they (in the person of real-life Jennifer Tessitore) should be selected by the Foundation for one of the few 2014 Boston Marathon bibs. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A persuasive essay setting forth why the MMRF (or another philanthropic organization of your choice) is worth of an individual's support. <p>A good essay will make a compelling case both for the cause (e.g., multiple myeloma, heart disease, etc.) and for the organization you choose to support in addressing that need. Participating teachers will submit their three best essays, an overall winner will be chosen for each of the two categories in this event, and recognition will be given to the "best of category" winners.</p>	

Core Curriculum Standards:

Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Standard 4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Listening and speaking standards, Gr 6-12, ELA

Standard 4: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the components that are involved in participation in this race
- Define the positive outcomes of the event participation
- Present your case for participation in the marathon through an essay
- Prepare and engage in the interview

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the requirements for acquiring a Boston Marathon bib
- Consider the reasons for running for or supporting a charity
- Determine the physical and mental requirements of a marathon
- Increase self-confidence in public speaking skills via the videoconference interview.

Background Information:

BOSTON MARATHON: The modern marathon is a road race – a footrace run primarily on roads – measured at 26.2 miles in length. It commemorates a fabled run of about that distance by a Greek soldier, Pheidippides (fuh-DIP-uh-dees), from Marathon, Greece to Athens, Greece in the year 490 B.C. A marathon race was included in the first modern Olympics in 1896. Today there are hundreds of marathons run around the world each year with more than half a million finishers in the USA.

The Boston Marathon began in 1897. It is the oldest and most celebrated road race in the world. The race is held each year on Patriot’s Day, a Massachusetts state holiday commemorating Paul Revere’s famous ride. On April 21, 2014 some 38,000 selected runners are slated to run the fabled 26.2 mile course from Hopkintown, west of Boston, to the downtown finish line near Copley Square. More than 500,000 spectators are expected to line the route. In light of last year’s tragic bombing, security is expected to be extremely tight.

The Boston Marathon has been managed from the outset by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA). For 26 years, the BAA has set aside about 9,000 positions for about 30 charities to allocate to runners who each commit to raising from \$4,000 to \$8,000 in donations. During that time, more than \$170-million has gone to the Boston Marathon charities. The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) is one of those organizations.

JENNIFER TESSITORE'S CAUSE: Ms. Jennifer Tessitore (TESS-uh-tor), age 46, is running the Boston Marathon, sponsored by the MMRF. Ms. Jennifer is an endurance runner, a mom and a lawyer who works as an assistant prosecutor in the Greenville, SC, criminal justice system. Her father has run the Boston Marathon three times and the New York Marathon twice.

This race, though, is not for dad. Rather, it is to honor and support her mother, Lois Rosenfeld. Ms. Rosenfeld has for two years been fighting Multiple Myeloma, an incurable cancer of the blood. Ms. Jennifer sees running "Boston" as a way of saying thanks to her mom but also as a tangible means of raising support for research that will directly benefit her mother and thousands of other sufferers like her.

The work of the MMRF is dramatically improving the outlook for patients with multiple myeloma. Since its inception 15 years ago, the life span of a myeloma patient has more than doubled. The treatments being developed with funds from the MMRF are now being explored as treatment for 30 other cancers. The MMRF directs an exemplary 90% of its budget to research and related programming, consistently earning the foundation ranking in the top 1% of all charities by the nation's leading charity evaluators

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why do individuals undertake causes that are bigger than they are?
2. What organizations might merit our support? What criteria should we use to decide?
3. What support can we offer this organization other than money?
4. How might we raise money to support our cause?

VIDEOCONFERENCING ETTIQUETTE:

- Try to avoid wearing very bright colors during the videoconference as this can have a negative impact on the quality of the image.
- When beginning to speak or pose a question, state your name and school.
- Ask thoughtful questions and respond to all answers with respect. Express your opinions in a positive manner. Avoid asking off-topic or inappropriate questions. Stick to the subject.
- Due to the technological constraints of videoconferencing, please understand only one person can speak at a time. Be sure to wait for the delay in audio so that you avoid interrupting others. Do not speak over others; you will be called to present or respond to a question.
- Please say "Thank you" when you conclude your statements or questions.
- Pay close attention to the speakers and the topic at hand. Use your facial expressions and nod or smile to express interest, attentiveness and participation. Look into the far-end or upper-corner of the monitor when others are speaking.
- Have paper and pencil/pen available to jot down notes or ideas so that you may comment on them when it is your turn.