Timeline

1. Select a handful of videos from past Brain Awareness Video Contests to show to your students. Have a brief discussion about each video. What are the students likes or dislikes about each video? Were they able to understand what the author was trying to say?

2. Have the students spend some time exploring BrainFacts.org. This can be done over a few class periods or as an at home assignment. Encourage them to select 3-5 neuroscience related topics that interest them.

3. At this point you can either divide the class up into teams, or have them work on the videos individually.

4. Ask your students/groups to write a paragraph on each of the 3-5 topics they chose. Encourage them to write about what makes the topic so fascinating as well as include some information on the topic.

5. Review all topics, and assign a topic to each student/group.

6. Have the students write a script, create a story board, and prepare a bibliography. Tell them to keep in mind that the video must be under 5 minutes long. Also ask them to begin looking for a scientist through the Find A Neuroscientist program who will help assist them in their research if necessary.

7. Review all the scripts, make the necessary edits, and redistribute them.

8. Give the students a due date to complete their videos by. Make sure the neuroscientist they reached out to has reviewed the video before it is turned in. Ask the students/groups to present some sort of proof of this, i.e. printing out e-mail correspondents, etc.

9. Students can turn in their videos as a file or submit a YouTube link. If students/groups choose to submit their video via YouTube, remind them to make sure their video’s privacy is set to “Unlisted” and comments are disabled.

10. Have each student/group present their short video to the class. Use the provided score sheet to grade each video on its quality, accuracy, and creativity.

Entering the BrainFacts.org Brain Awareness Video Contest

Once the class project is over encourage students/groups to submit their video to the Brain Awareness Video Contest. To do so they must review the contest’s rules and guidelines.