Introduction
From natural disasters to terrorist attacks, our nation faces many threats. We must strive to be prepared, not scared in the face of such emergencies. In this project, students will research a threat facing your community and create a series of text messages to inform and guide the community through the emergency.

Overview
(Throughout this project, students should work in groups of four).

Week 1: A Prepared Community
Students will research the SafeAmerica and Ready.gov websites to find tips for emergency preparedness that are particular relevant to each of four groups: teens, parents, school administrators, and business owners. (This will take approximately 40 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 2: Today’s Threats
Students explore USA TODAY and the Ready.gov website in order to identify threats that face their community. Each group identifies a single threat to focus on for the remainder of the project. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 3: Survey the Community
Students identify several facts about their threat and create a survey to determine what the community already knows about preparing for this type of emergency. Students poll various members of the community using their survey. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time and 30 minutes of homework time.)

Week 4: Compiling the Results
Students use surveys and graphs from an issue of USA TODAY as a model as they generate a graph of their own survey data and identify common misconceptions among the community. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 5: Composing Text Messages
Students use the survey data to draft four text messages that would be valuable to send to the entire community in the event of their emergency as well as two text messages that would be targeted to each of teens, parents, school administrators, and business owners. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 6: Presenting the Results
Students create a brief, engaging presentation, which communicates their threat, the survey results, and the best text messages they created. (Preparing and presenting may take two or three class periods.)
## Project Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Text Messages</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>Contains seven to ten relevant questions</td>
<td>Generated a total of twelve text messages</td>
<td>Presentation (about four minutes) is brief and engaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>Data gathered from at least 40 individuals total</td>
<td>All text messages are useful and relevant</td>
<td>Presentation includes a visual aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>Results displayed in an accurate and readable graph</td>
<td>All text messages are less than 160 characters and avoid the use of slang</td>
<td>Students share responsibility and present in a professional manner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Sub total | ____/6 points | ____/6 points | ____/6 points |
| Grand total | ____/18 points |

To set expectations, you may wish to provide your students with the project rubric before they begin.