

Crunch time: Business Plan Challenge entries due by midnight

By Nancy Dahlberg
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It's crunch time for entering Miami Herald Business Plan Challenge. The deadline is 11:59 p.m. Friday. Haven't sent your submission yet? Here is a last-minute survival guide:

- **Entry requirements:** Your business plan entry should be a maximum of three pages, like an executive summary. Add one page of supplemental material, such as a product photo or diagram, if you'd like. Find tips on preparing your entry in the contest rules on www.MiamiHerald.com/Challenge. Judges who are experts in entrepreneurship decide the winners.
- **Eligibility:** You're eligible to enter if your business is less than two years old. It can be just an idea, too. You do not have to have an operating startup to enter. And if you entered last year, you can enter again.
- **Opportunities to enter:** The Community Track is open to all South Floridians; (Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Broward and Monroe); the FIU Track is open to alumni and students of FIU (only one person on the team needs to be a student or alum); and the High School Track is open to grades 9-12.
- **E-mail entries by 11:59 p.m. Friday, March 25, to:** Challenge@MiamiHerald.com (Community Track); FIUChallenge@MiamiHerald.com (FIU Track); HighSchoolChallenge@MiamiHerald.com (High School Track). You should get an automated response when you e-mail your entry. For questions, or further confirmation, e-mail ndahlberg@MiamiHerald.com
- **Prizes:** Winners will be featured in a Miami Herald cover story and finalists will be mentioned as well. Semifinalists also take part in a People's Pick video competition, which last year drew more than 15,000 votes. Winners will attend a luncheon in their honor with Challenge judges and Herald business staff as well as a Hall of Fame reception at FIU. The Herald follows the progress of winners for years to come.
- For contest rules, judges' bios: www.MiamiHerald.com/Challenge