

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT

Circle of Champions

www.myCircleofChampions.com

The Circle of Champions assignment is a required project in this course and accounts for 5% of your final grade. This project is designed to help you build a supportive academic network, reflect on your goals, and develop a sense of belonging in your academic journey—especially if you’re considering a STEM major or career. You’ll participate in the Circle of Champions Network (www.myCircleofChampions.com), a platform that connects you with people who care about your success.

Please note, you will be participating in a program that is still in development. Your collaboration in this activity will be extremely valuable. Circle of Champions staff, faculty, students, and champions are working on this project together to figure out one BIG challenge: How do we get first-generation STEM students to include their significant others in their academic journeys?

If you are completing this assignment in another class, you may submit it once and receive credit in both courses.



Need Help? I know your professor is available for assistance, but you can reach out to me also. If you need help with this assignment, get stuck, feel frustrated, have technical problems, or have something good to share, feel free to reach out to me. I look forward to working with you.

Dr. Marina Chavez (mchavez@journeyGPS.com)

Part 1	Orientation & Onboarding — Building Your Circle
Due	_____ (within first month)
Why	Starting strong means knowing where you’re headed and who’s walking with you. Part 1 introduces you to the Circle of Champions platform and gets you started on building your support network. Research shows that students who identify a strong support system are more likely to succeed—especially in demanding fields like STEM.
To Do	1. Go to https://www.mycircleofchampions.com/beingastudent for an overview. 2. Go to https://www.mycircleofchampions.com/startingyourjourney to complete the orientation. 3. Join the Circle of Champions at https://www.mycircleofchampions.com/join. 4. Sign in to your account at https://www.mycircleofchampions.com and complete your profile. 5. Sign in to your account at https://www.mycircleofchampions.com and nominate champions and build your Circle. 6. Send Dr. Chavez a note on how this assignment is coming along: https://forms.gle/8XGUTAsz51XiGhaj6.

Part 2	Update #1 to Your Champions (General Update About Your Journey)
Due	_____ (In 2nd Month)
Why	This is your opportunity to share your voice, goals, and progress with the people who care about you. Updates build connections and keep your champions engaged in your journey. Plus, learning to communicate your goals is a powerful life and career skill that helps attract opportunities and the right mentors needed for success.
Need Help	If you need any help with Part 2, reach out to Marina Chavez (mchavez@journeygps.com).
To Do	1. Continue building your Circle if it is not full. Shoot for at least three champions. You will likely need to nominate 6 or 7 to get three champions. 2. Sign in to your account at https://www.mycircleofchampions.com and send an update to your Circle using the “Update My Champions” tool. With this tool, Sylvia or Mateo will help you prepare an update. 3. Sign in to your account at https://www.mycircleofchampions.com and chat with your Champions about your update. 4. Send Dr. Chavez a note on how this assignment is coming along: https://forms.gle/d9STcTHggAnJCpKx6

Part 3	Update #2 to Your Champions (General Update and Check-In)
Due	_____ (In 3rd Month)
Why	Midway through the semester is a key moment for reflection and motivation. Sharing updates helps you stay accountable and lets your champions provide encouragement and guidance when it matters most. Your goals may shift—this is the time to share and reflect.
To Do	1. Continue building your Circle if it is not full. Shoot for at least three champions. You will likely need to nominate 6 or 7 to get three champions. 2. Sign in to your account at https://www.mycircleofchampions.com and send an update to your Circle using the “Update My Champions” tool. With this tool, Sylvia or Mateo will help you prepare an update. 3. Sign in to your account at https://www.mycircleofchampions.com and chat with your Champions about your update. 4. Send Dr. Chavez a note on how this assignment is coming along: https://forms.gle/CdYttnVzZEETuE4B7

Part 4	Update #3 to Your Champions (Exploring STEM & Looking Ahead)
Due	_____ (In 4th Month/Week Prior to Finals)
Why	As the semester ends, it's time to reflect on your STEM experience. Do you see yourself continuing in this field? This step invites deeper conversations with your champions about your future in STEM and provides a chance to receive meaningful advice.
To Do	1. Instead of a general update to your Circle, provide an update to your Champions regarding STEM. You may want to talk them about one of the following: ○ Now that you have this STEM course nearly completed, what are your thoughts about majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math? ○ Do you think STEM is a good fit for how you think? Your personality? Why or why not? ○ Are there STEM-related careers that sound interesting to you? ○ What do you think are the biggest challenges and opportunities in pursuing a STEM degree or career? 2. Send Dr. Chavez your final thoughts on the assignment: https://forms.gle/4fW3b5t8zsB774VY8