



## The Phantom of the Classroom

Students will learn about the concept of phantom power and locate the phantoms in their classroom, school or home.



### Learning outcomes

By the end of this activity, students:

- ✓ will understand the meaning of phantom power
- ✓ will be able to locate phantom power sources throughout their school or home
- ✓ will have identified ways to reduce phantom energy use

### Complete **ONE** of the following options.

You will only be able to submit work and get credit for one option.

#### Option 1

##### Map phantom power in your classroom or school.

Students will learn about phantom power and create a map of their classroom or school, highlighting where it is located.

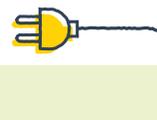
#### Option 2

##### Share with others how to reduce phantom power through a persuasive letter.

Students will learn about phantom power and write a persuasive letter to their principal, highlighting measures that can be taken to reduce phantom power in your classroom or school.

### Important

Please respect all school and governmental guidelines and restrictions surrounding COVID-19. Review the 2022 CEDC COVID-19 policy [here](#). This challenge does NOT require students to participate in an in-person event.





# The Phantom of the Classroom

## Option 1

### Locate phantom power in your home, classroom or school

Students will create a map of their home, classroom or school and identify phantom power sources on it.

## Materials

Blank paper, pens, pencils, computers for phantom power research (optional), watt meter (optional).

## Proof to be submitted

Examples of student maps or one completed classroom or school map.

## Activity

As a class, brainstorm a list of devices that use energy in your classroom or school. Challenge students to rank these devices based on how much energy they use. Ask students to circle which devices use standby power. Introduce the concept of phantom power — electricity used by devices that are plugged in but not in use.

Inform students that they are going to be phantom power detectives. Ask them to draw a blank map of their home, classroom or school. Have students walk around their home, classroom or school and record locations where phantom power exists. If possible, use a watt meter to measure the phantom power used by each device. Have them record the results and calculate the total wattage of phantom power in that area of their home, classroom or school. Ask students to complete their maps individually, or as a class. Hold a class discussion about decreasing phantom power around the home, classroom or school.



### Teacher tip

When drawing your map, use a colour-coding system to identify which areas of the home, classroom or school use less energy and which use more.





# The Phantom of the Classroom

## Option 2

Share with others how to reduce phantom power through a persuasive letter.

Students will learn about phantom power and write a persuasive letter to their principal, highlighting measures that can be taken to reduce phantom power in your classroom or school.

## Materials

Blank paper, pens, pencils, computers for phantom power research (optional).

## Proof to be submitted

Examples of student letters.

## Activity

As a class, brainstorm a list of devices that use energy in your classroom or school. Challenge students to rank these devices based on how much energy they use. Ask students to circle which devices use standby power. Introduce the concept of phantom power — electricity used by devices that are plugged in but not in use.

Inform students that they are going to be writing a persuasive letter explaining what phantom power is and outlining ways you can reduce phantom power in your classroom or school. Explain that this letter can be written to the school principal or vice principal or another member of staff that they think would be appropriate. Once letters have been completed, arrange to send these letters out to the intended recipient, or invite them into your classroom for a brief presentation about phantom power.



### Teacher tip

Before writing their letters, have students investigate tips on how to write a successful persuasive letter and share their tips with the class.



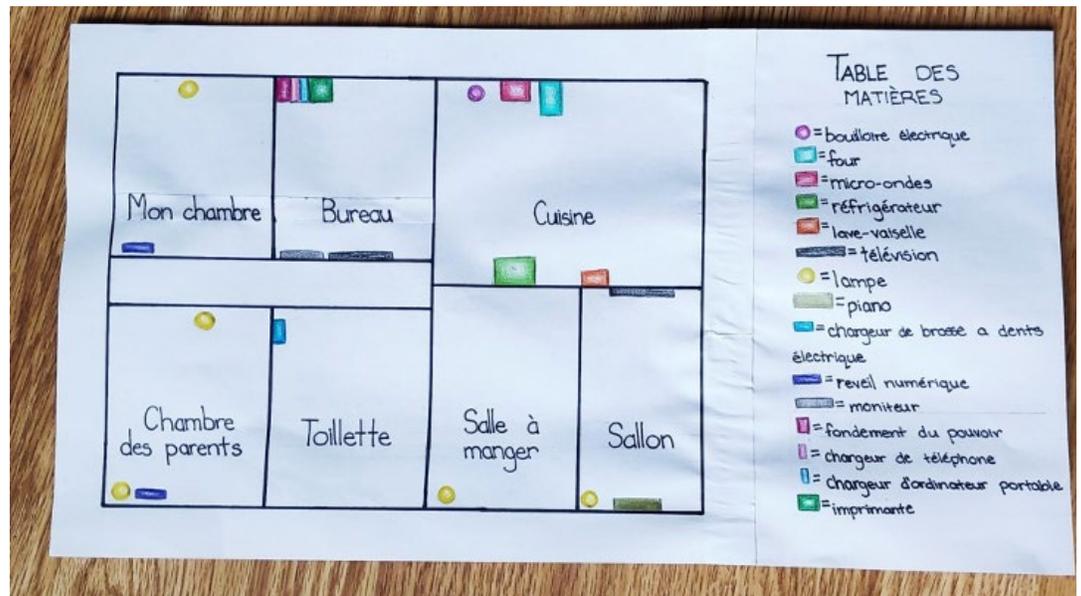


# The Phantom of the Classroom

Examples from previous years of how this challenge can be completed:

## Example 1

The Mega Munshis created maps of their homes and where they found phantom power.



## Example 2

Kindergarten students from Cozy Corner created maps of where they found phantom power in their homes.

