DonorsChoose Project Template

Fill this in on paper first — then paste the good version into your project draft.

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1. The One-Sentence Ask

If you can't say it in one sentence, it's two projects. Write yours here:

My students need _____

because _____.

2. Project Title (under 10 words)

Formula: **name the actual item** + **name the kids**. Skip "urgent" and dollar amounts.

My working title: _____

Tighter version: _____

Examples that worked: *"Flexible Seating for My Wiggly 7th Graders" — "Help My Students Read Without Sharing One Battered Textbook"*

3. The Impact Paragraph (write it like you'd tell a neighbor)

Answer these in plain words — no grant jargon:

- ☐ **Right now we… / Right now I can't…** (the gap — the most important sentence)
- ☐ **Real numbers:** ___ students, ___ class periods a day, ___ minutes per period.
- ☐ **What changes** the day the materials arrive?

Draft it here:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Budget (one need — every item serves it)

Item	Qty	Unit price	Total

TOTAL			

Shorter totals fund faster. If item seven doesn't clearly belong, cut it.

5. Photos That Help

- ☐ The **"before" photo**: the broken, tangled, or insufficient current situation.
- ☐ Kids actually using something similar — real and unposed (backs of heads and hands are fine).
- ☐ The space where the new stuff will live — the empty shelf, the corner.
- ☐ Photo permissions checked: only students with forms on file.

6. Timing & Follow-Through

- ☐ Posting in a strong window (late Aug/Sept, pre-holidays) or into a match offer — check the site first.
- ☐ One project live at a time, at least at first. Fund it, thank everyone, then post the next.
- ☐ Promotion plan — who gets the link? (family group chat, teacher friends, Facebook)
- ☐ Thank-you plan for the week materials arrive: photos of kids using them + genuine student notes.

From the post "How to Write a DonorsChoose Project That Gets Funded" at theeverydayeducator.com.