

26 Ways Gifted Students Can Advocate for Academic Challenge

Choose real or fictional examples. Skip private details; never include passwords, medical information or contact details.

Learning goal: Explore 26 respectful ways to ask for challenge or support and choose the ones that fit you.

There are many ways to ask for the learning you need, from A to Z. Some ask for depth, some for pace and some for support. Every request still needs evidence and a teacher decision. Read the list, then choose your favorites.

Your steps

1. Read all 26 ideas.
2. Star three you could try this month.
3. Turn one idea into your own request.
4. Plan when and how you would ask.

1. The A–Z list (A–M)

Read each idea. Put a star by ones you might try.

A · Ask for a pretest. B · Bring evidence of what you know. C · Choose a challenge option. D · Dig into patterns.

E · Explore a new perspective. F · Find an advanced book. G · Go deeper with “why.” H · Help design a real-world problem.

I · Investigate an unanswered question. J · Journal your learning goals. K · Keep a mastery record. L · Learn from an expert source. M · Move ahead after mastery.

2. The A–Z list (N–Z)

Keep starring ideas that fit you.

N · Name what you need clearly. O · Offer a different way to show mastery. P · Propose an independent project. Q · Question respectfully.

R · Request feedback. S · Say when you need more instruction. T · Try a harder problem set. U · Use primary sources. V · Value your teacher’s decision.

W · Write a challenge request. X · eXtend the skill to a new subject. Y · say “Yes, and...” to new options. Z · Zoom out to the big idea.

26 Ways Gifted Students Can Advocate for Academic Challenge · Practice & next steps

Continue your ideas from page 1. Write, draw, use symbols or ask someone to scribe. Share only what you choose.

3. My top three

Write the letters you chose and turn one into a respectful request.

Idea 1 and why	Idea 2 and why
Idea 3 and why	My request: "Could I...?"

My next step

The first idea I will try is... I will try it on or around...

Optional stretch · Grades 6–8

Group the 26 ideas into categories (pace, depth, resources, support). Which category do you use least? Why?

Optional teacher / parent follow-up: Remind students that every idea is a request, not a guarantee. Ideas include asking for support, which is equally valued.