



Preconstruction Problem Statement

Fall 2025 ASC Region 3 Student Competition

Thank you for joining us for this year's Preconstruction challenge competition. We are excited to be working with you this Fall.

What is Preconstruction?

Before we elaborate on this year's problem statement, we believe it is important to define what Preconstruction is to Power Construction.

Preconstruction is, very simply, developing data to help our clients make informed decisions

Yes, preconstruction involves quantity take-off, spreadsheets, research, historic data, etc. But these are all a means to an end. Our preconstruction professionals are trusted advisors for our clients that help them drive a project forward and get into the ground.

Our hope is that as you leave this competition you will have a renewed understanding the role of preconstruction professionals and see it as a viable and important career path in construction.

Problem

Your group will be acting as an estimate team within Power Construction's Preconstruction Department. An important client of ours is requesting we analyze and advise on whether a Cast-in-place Concrete or a Cold-formed Metal Framed Structure is more appropriate his new mid-rise residential building. You will be expected to understand and advise on cost, feasibility, quality, schedule, logistics, etc. Upon completion of your analysis, you will present your findings to a small group of Power Construction stakeholders that will assess your group's ability to comprehend the differences between the proposed structural systems, ability to communicate your recommendation, passion and interest in the task at hand, teamwork, and full group participation. To aid in your analysis, we have provided a recap sheet that we will review together as part of your recommendation.

Context

Remember you are part of Power's preconstruction team...this is not a marketing presentation...this a team of preconstruction professionals solving a problem together.

While getting to a directional correct solution for our client is important, the learning process is equally important. How you analyze and draw conclusions from your work will be important for us to see.



Pre-event Work

VERY IMPORTANT

Included in the Box folder, you will find documents for your team to review prior to the competition. There is a training document for our "Concrete School" at Power. Additionally, you will find a presentation document that we utilize at Power to train on cold-formed metal framing systems. Inside the presentation, there is commentary in the presenter's notes as well as hyperlinks to helpful videos.

Please arrive with thoughtful and relevant questions on these documents and be prepared to discuss during our initial download.

Structure

While each team member will be working as a Preconstruction professional, the documents provided will follow themes consistent with considerations in the field: schedule, quality, cost, etc. Teams are encouraged to assign specific responsibilities in analyzing the documents and work together to draw conclusions. The problem was created so that while many topics may be new, the correct answer is hinted at in different ways and thus, reading comprehension paired with focused curiosity is the priority. Your team should have the tools and ability to utilize Excel and read PDFs. Quantity takeoffs are not required and while scheduling software could be helpful it is not necessary.

Mentoring

Throughout the event, you will have access to our team of mentors all of whom are full time preconstruction professionals. As in the real world, they will act as advisors and resources to help guide you throughout the challenge. Any, and all questions are encouraged at Power Construction. An inquisitive mindset is critical to your success. Our mentors understand that technical knowledge is accrued over the course of a career and therefore any admission to knowledge gaps is a prerequisite to an honest conversation. Below are guidelines for effective learning:

- Understand what you do not understand and get clarity from the mentors in the form of formal RFIs or informal conversations
- Group like topics together to drive organization into the Q&A process
- Research a solution on your own
- Present the issue/question
- Vocalize your potential solutions making sure to explain your line of reasoning

Expectations

The day after submission, we will sit down with each team and do a "closeout" exactly as we would for any preconstruction exercise. Senior members and above will listen to you walk through how you interpreted each document and your reasoning for the path you chose. Feedback will be provided during our review. While a



perfect world would have the correct answer before we review, providing logical explanations that are coached into correct solutions are equally acceptable as that's how true learning occurs.

Dress Code

Dress code is construction business casual. Jeans without holes and a polo is the most popular choice but a button down and slacks are equally acceptable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jspencer@powerconstruction.net or 847-417-1668.

Thank you,

John Spencer
Vice President of Preconstruction