

CHALLENGING TECHNOLOGY ISSUES



OVERVIEW

Team members work together to prepare and deliver a debate-style presentation with participants explaining opposing views of a current technology issue. The current year's topics will be posted on the [TSA website](#) under Competitions/Themes and Problems.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) teams of two (2) individuals per state may participate.

TIME LIMITS

Team presentation:

1. Preparation time: Fifteen (15) minutes
2. Presentation time: Must be a minimum of two (2) minutes up to a maximum of four (4) minutes
3. Both members of a team must be present at the time stated in the conference program.

LEAP

A team LEAP Response is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in.

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required.

PROCEDURE

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Participants report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to:
 - a. Receive an assigned presentation time
 - b. Submit a hard copy of the team's LEAP Response with no report cover
2. Teams report with their materials to the preparation room at the assigned time.

3. Using a random draw procedure:
 - a. The coordinator will draw one (1) topic from those posted on the [TSA website](#) under Competitions/Themes and Problems.
 - b. The topic will be written on index cards and given to each team in the preparation room.
4. At the end of the fifteen (15)-minute preparation time, each team will be escorted to the presentation room where the team will present opposing views of the selected issue.
5. A list of twelve (12) semifinalist teams (in random order) will be posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. A representative from each semifinalist team will report at the time and location stated in the conference program to schedule a presentation time.
2. Semifinalist teams report to the preparation room at their assigned time for the same procedure used in the preliminary round.
3. The LEAP Response will be judged for semifinalist teams.
4. Ten (10) finalists will be announced during the conference awards ceremony.

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

PRELIMINARY AND SEMIFINAL ROUNDS

- A. The same regulations apply to both the preliminary and semifinal rounds of judging for this event.
- B. Materials:
 1. Team members may bring non-electronic reference materials for use while in the preparation room.
 2. No other form of assistance is allowed.
 3. Participants must provide their own pencils or pens for this event.
 4. Participants may provide note cards, if desired.

C. Note cards:

1. Note cards may be used during the presentation.
2. The use of note cards may result in score deductions if they detract from the effectiveness of the presentation.

D. Event debate:

1. The team will present on one (1) topic from the topics posted on the [TSA website](#) under Competitions/Themes and Problems.
2. Team may use first names ONLY and no other identifying information during their presentation.
3. Each team states the selected topic/issue when prompted by the judges.
4. After stating the selected issue, the presentation time will begin once a team member begins to speak.
5. Teams present opposing views of the selected issue in debate style.
6. Teams may use the following suggested format to present opposing views:
 - Introduction (pro) Introduction (con)
 - Position (pro) Position (con)
 - Conclusion (pro) Conclusion (con)
7. A timekeeper will notify a presenting team thirty (30) seconds before the end of the four (4)-minute time limit by holding up a “30-seconds remaining” card.
8. Time is called at four (4) minutes, at which time the presentation must stop. No overtime speaking is allowed.

E. The LEAP Response:

1. Teams document the leadership skills they have developed and demonstrated while working on this event and on a non-competitive event leadership experience.
2. Find the specific LEAP Response regulations in the LEAP Program section of this guide and on the [TSA website](#).

EVALUATION

1. The effective presentation of opposing views of an issue
2. The content and quality of the LEAP Response (semifinalists only)

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

STEM INTEGRATION

This event has connections to the STEM areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

This competition connects to one (1) or more of the careers below:

- Lobbyist
- Management executive
- Motivational speaker
- Politician
- Public policy specialist

CHALLENGING TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

2020 & 2021 OFFICIAL RATING FORM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Judges: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline in the rating form, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an “adequate” score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an “adequate” score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.

Go/No Go Specifications

- Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box.
- If an item is missing, leave the box next to the item blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED.
- If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

- A completed LEAP Response is present
 ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

PRO SIDE (70 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Introduction (X1)	Introduction does not show an attempt to get the attention of the audience, and/or it does not outline points clearly and distinctly.	Introduction shows an effort to grab the attention of the audience; previewing points are somewhat organized in a logical manner.	Introduction employs an attention-getter, clearly states the thesis, and previews main points of the issue.	
Organization (X1)	Ideas may not be focused or developed; the main purpose is not clear; there are no transitions.	The main idea is evident, and the organizational structure is generally strong; ideas are relevant and flow smoothly.	Ideas are clearly organized, developed, and supported, with smooth transitions.	
Topic knowledge (X1)	Team does not have a grasp of the topic; inaccurate, generalized, or inappropriate support material is used; over dependence on notes is evident.	Team demonstrates a simple grasp of the topic; support material is stated; the team is at ease when it elaborates on the topic.	Team exhibits full knowledge and a clear grasp of the topic; support material is introduced and referenced accurately.	
Conclusion (X1)	Conclusion ends abruptly (no logical and/or organized conclusion is presented); it does not restate main points of the position.	Conclusion is somewhat engaging; it restates main points and wraps up the position on the topic.	Conclusion is engaging and restates main points of the topic in a comprehensive, competent, and articulate way, reinforcing the team's understanding of the subject; the position is well stated and closes with a connection to the introduction.	
Voice and language (X1)	Vocabulary choice may be limited; speech is peppered with slang or jargon; presentation is too effusive or too dull; language is questionable or inappropriate for the setting.	Presentation is respectful; language is appropriate for the setting and word choices are generally precise.	Language is appropriate for the setting and free of bias; vocabulary choices are vivid and precise.	
Delivery (X2)	Delivery detracts from the message; eye contact may be limited; presenters may tend to look at the floor, mumble, speak inaudibly, fidget, or read from cards; gestures and movements may be excessive.	Delivery is appealing, though some hesitancy may be observed; posture, eye contact, gestures, facial expressions, volume, pace, etc., do not detract from the message.	Delivery is natural, confident, and enhances the message; posture, eye contact, gestures, facial expressions, volume, pace, etc., indicate confidence.	
PRO SIDE SUBTOTAL (70 points)				

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CON SIDE (70 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Introduction (X1)	Introduction does not show an attempt to get the attention of the audience and/or does not outline points clearly and distinctly.	Introduction shows the effort to grab the attention of the audience; previewing points are somewhat organized in a logical manner.	Introduction employs an attention-getter, clearly states the thesis, and previews main points of the issue.	
Organization (X1)	Ideas may not be focused or developed; the main purpose is not clear; main points are difficult to identify; there are no transitions.	The main idea is evident, and the organizational structure is generally strong; ideas are relevant and flow smoothly.	Ideas are clearly organized, developed, and supported, with smooth transitions.	
Topic knowledge (X1)	Team does not have a grasp of the topic; inaccurate, generalized, or inappropriate support material is used; over dependence on notes is evident.	Team has a simple grasp of the topic; support material is stated; the team is at ease when it elaborates on the topic.	Team exhibits full knowledge and a clear grasp of the topic; support material is introduced and referenced accurately.	
Conclusion (X1)	Conclusion ends abruptly (no logical and/or organized conclusion is presented); it does not restate main points of the position.	Conclusion is somewhat engaging; it restates main points and wraps up the position on the topic.	Conclusion is engaging and restates main points of the topic in a comprehensive, competent, and articulate way, reinforcing the team's understanding of the subject; the position is well stated and closes with a connection to the introduction.	
Voice and language (X1)	Vocabulary choice may be limited; speech is peppered with slang or jargon; presentation is too effusive or too dull; language is questionable or inappropriate for the setting.	Presentation is respectful; language is appropriate for the setting and word choices are generally precise.	Language is appropriate for the setting and free of bias; vocabulary choices are vivid and precise.	
Delivery (X2)	Delivery detracts from the message; eye contact may be limited; presenters may tend to look at the floor, mumble, speak inaudibly, fidget, or read from note cards; gestures and movements may be excessive.	Delivery is appealing, though some hesitancy may be observed; posture, eye contact, gestures, facial expressions, volume, pace, etc. do not detract from the message.	Delivery is natural, confident, and enhances the message; posture, eye contact, gestures, facial expressions, volume, pace, etc. indicate confidence.	
CON SIDE SUBTOTAL (70 points)				

PARTICIPATION (10 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Team member participation (X1)	One team member does the majority of the speaking and/or debating on the topic; the other member seems disengaged from the presentation.	Both team members are engaged in the debate, but one clearly takes the lead; the other member only replies to or refutes statements.	Both team members are actively involved in the presentation, debate, and rebuttals of the topic; shared responsibility is evident throughout.	
PARTICIPATION SUBTOTAL (10 points)				

<p>Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.</p> <p>Indicate the rule violated: _____</p>	
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SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (150 points)	
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SEMIFINAL LEAP RESPONSE (15 points)

SEMIFINAL LEAP RESPONSE (15 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance
LEAP Response (10% of the total event points)	The team's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and incorporate the SLC Practices.	The team's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and are generally convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are satisfactory.	The team's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are excellent.
LEAP RESPONSE SUBTOTAL (15 points)			

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right. Indicate the rule violated: _____	
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SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (15 points)	
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To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary.	TOTAL (165 points)	
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Comments:

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

JUDGE

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____

CHALLENGING TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

- A. Event coordinator
- B. Judges:
 - 1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more per heat
 - 2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more
- C. Assistants, two (2) per preparation room
- D. Timekeeper, one (1) per presentation room
- 4. Inspect the area(s) in which the event is to be held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.
- 5. One (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, meet with judges and assistants to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

MATERIALS

- A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
 - 1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and each judge
 - 2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
 - 3. List of judges/assistants
 - 4. Results envelope with coordinator forms
 - 5. List of participating teams
 - 6. A time sign-up sheet
- B. Lined paper and 3" x 5" note cards
- C. Stopwatch, one (1) per preparation room and one (1) for the presentation room per heat; one (1) set for the semifinal round
- D. Written topic/issue selections
- E. A card with "30 seconds remaining" printed clearly, one (1) per presentation room
- F. Tables and chairs for event coordinator, judges, and participants

RESPONSIBILITIES

AT THE CONFERENCE

- 1. Attend the mandatory event coordinator's meeting at the designated time and location.
- 2. Report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet.
- 3. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough personnel have been scheduled.

PRESENTATION TIME SIGN-UP

- 1. Check in the teams at the time stated in the conference program.
- 2. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the lateness is caused by events beyond the participant's control.
- 3. In order to compete, participants must be on the entry list or must have approval of the CRC.
- 4. Requirements for attire do NOT apply during check-in, only on the first day of the conference.
- 5. When the teams report to the event area:
 - a. Assign times for their presentations. Times should be scheduled at ten (10)-minute intervals.
 - b. Depending upon the number of entries, heats may be necessary to determine semifinalists.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- 1. Preparation:
 - a. After each team reports to the preparation room at the assigned time and participants have been seated, review the time limits and distribute paper.
 - b. Present the team with the topic selected.
 - c. Start the time and inform participants of the end of the preparation time.
 - d. Monitor students during the preparation time and supply extra paper if needed.
 - e. At the end of the 15-minute preparation time, collect the topic and escort the team to the presentation room.

2. Presentation:
 - a. After the team is in position, introduce the team by entry number only. Please note that team members may use first names only and no other identifying information during their presentation.
 - b. Judges tell the team to start, and timing the event begins.
 - c. The timekeeper notifies the team thirty (30) seconds before the end of the four (4)-minute time limit by holding up a “30 seconds remaining” card.
 - d. Time is called at four (4) minutes, at which point the speakers must stop.
 3. Judges independently assess the entries.
 4. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and the CRC manager to determine either:
 - To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round
 - To disqualify the entry

The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of the violations on the rating form.
 5. Judges determine the twelve (12) semifinalists.
 6. Submit the semifinalist results to the CRC room for posting.
 7. Create a semifinalist sign-up sheet for final presentations.
3. Oversee semifinalist presentation/interviews:
 - a. When the semifinalist teams report to the presentation room at their assigned times, follow the same procedure used in the preliminary round.
 - b. Use the same official rating form for both the preliminary and semifinal rounds of evaluation.
 4. Discuss rule violations (e.g. 20% deduction, disqualification) and have all relevant parties initial the rating form.
 5. Judges determine the ten (10) finalist teams and discuss and break any ties.
 6. Submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.
 7. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the area.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. At least one (1) hour before the event begins, meet with judges/assistants to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.
2. Semifinalist teams report to the event area at the time and place noted in the conference program to sign up for an interview time.