

OVERVIEW

Participants take a written test of basic forensic science theory to qualify as semifinalists. Semifinalists use their knowledge of forensic science to demonstrate the selected skill or technique to the judges. Each year, three (3) skills or techniques will be posted in under the Themes and Problems page on the [TSA website](#). Students will need to be familiar with and able to demonstrate all three (3) skills. During the semifinalist portion, one (1) skill will be selected for the students to demonstrate to the judges.

ELIGIBILITY

One (1) team of two (2) individuals per chapter may participate.

TIME LIMITS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. One (1) hour to complete the written test.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Five (5) minutes is allowed to set up supplies and prepare the demonstration. Supplies will be provided but students may bring their own if they prefer.
2. Ten (10) minutes is allowed to demonstrate their selected skill and answer questions from the judges.
3. Students will be allotted three (3) minutes to clean the demonstration area.

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. Team members report for the written test at the time and place stated in the conference program, and submit a hard copy of the LEAP Response with no report cover.
2. A forensic science test is administered to all team members at the same time.
3. Twelve (12) teams with the highest averaged scores are selected as semifinalists for the on-site problem.
4. A list of semifinalists in random order is posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Semifinalist teams report to sign up for a time slot for the on-site problem at the time and place stated in the conference program.
2. Each team will be given a copy of the skill they will be demonstrating.
 - a. Participants use the allotted time to set up necessary materials and prepare the demonstration.
 - b. Teams demonstrate the selected skill using proper forensic science techniques and answer questions about the skill to the judges.
 - c. Participants clean the demonstration area and pack necessary supplies for the next competitors.
3. The LEAP response will be judged for semifinalists.
4. Ten (10) finalists will be announced during the conference award ceremony.

REGULATIONS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- A. Tests may be administered online or via a scan-type answer sheet. Please review the Competition Updates page of the [TSA website](#).
- B. Team members take the written test individually.

- C. Participants are responsible for bringing two (2) sharpened No.2 pencils to the test site.
- D. The same two (2) team members will compete in the semifinalist round, should the team qualify.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

- A. No reference may be made concerning the name of the team, the team members, or their school.
- B. Team members write their team identification number on any material used to demonstrate their skill.
- C. No reference materials may be used during this event.
- D. No observers are allowed in the event or preparation rooms during the event.
- E. Supplies will be provided to complete the demonstration, however, students may bring their own supplies.
- F. If teams supply their own materials they will only be allowed to use the same type of materials provided by National TSA. For example, if the skill the students are demonstrating is “Taking and Lifting Fingerprints,” students may bring their own dusting powder and duster, but would not be permitted to use a camera with micro capabilities unless it is provided by National TSA.

Optional tools:

- 1. Clipboard(s)
- 2. Blank sheets of paper (for note taking)

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

EVALUATION

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- 1. A team’s written test score
 - a. The written test scores of the individual team members will be averaged and recorded as a single team score on the rubric.
 - b. Twelve (12) teams with the highest scores will be selected as the semifinalists for the on-site problem.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

- 1. A team’s on-site problem performance, and the content and quality of the LEAP Response.

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:

- Crime scene investigator
- Forensic anthropologist
- Forensic pathologist
- Forensic engineering scientist

FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY

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.

Completed LEAP Response is present

ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

WRITTEN TEST SCORES (50 points)			
Record the written test scores of each of the two (2) team members (for team A and B) in the boxes below and then calculate the team average. Record the team average in the column space to the right.			
Team member 1		Team member 2	
WRITTEN TEST SUBTOTAL (50 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: _____

PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL (50 points)

DEMONSTRATION (80 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points
Knowledge (X2)	The team is unprepared and unorganized for the presentation.	Team members have a general understanding of the forensic science skill and answer questions adequately.	There is clear evidence that team members have a thorough understanding of the forensic science skill; they answer questions well and confidently.
Articulation (X1)	The team’s demonstration is not logical or articulate.	The team’s demonstration is logical and generally articulate.	The team provides a concise, logical, and clear explanation of the skill they are demonstrating.
Team participation (X1)	Only one team member communicates with judges; there is no participation from the other team members.	Team members participate equally, but only one member seems to fully understand the concepts.	Team members seem to fully understand the concepts and share an equal role in the demonstration.

Record scores in the column spaces below.



DEMONSTRATION (80 points) – continued				
Skill demonstration (X2)	Team members are unable to successfully demonstrate the designated skill.	Team members are able to partially demonstrate the designated skill.	Team members are successful and effective in their skill demonstration.	
Technique (X2)	No indication of proper technique is used during the demonstration	Some indication of proper technique is used during demonstration.	Proper technique is used during the demonstration.	
DEMONSTRATION SUBTOTAL (80 points)				

LEAP RESPONSE (13 points)				
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
LEAP Response (10% of 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 (13 points)				

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initiated by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (93 points)

To arrive at the **TOTAL** score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary. **TOTAL (143 points)**

Comments:

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

JUDGE

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____



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EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

- A. Event coordinator
- B. Judges:
 1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more
 2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more
- C. Timekeepers for recording start/stop times
- D. Monitors, one (1) per event room

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
- B. Coordinators are responsible for creating the test to be administered at the national conference; copies will be provided by the national TSA office.
- C. Stopwatches for timekeepers, one (1) per room
- D. Tables and chairs in the analysis room
- E. Copies of the semifinalist problem, one (1) per team and one (1) per judge
- F. Supplies needed to demonstrate the selected skill

RESPONSIBILITIES

AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Attend the mandatory 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.
4. Inspect the area(s) in which the event is being held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.
5. At least one (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, 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.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Begin the event at the scheduled time by closing the doors and checking the entry list.
2. Late participants and/or entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when 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. All participants and judges should be in the room at this time.
5. In order to compete, participants must be on the registration list or must have approval of the CRC.
6. Monitor the one (1)-hour written test.
7. 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.
8. Judges determine the twelve (12) semifinalists.
9. Submit semifinalist results to the CRC for posting.
10. The demonstration theme will be posted when the semifinalists are posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Set up the demonstration supplies in the designated room one (1) hour prior to the semifinalist sign-up time.
2. Facilitate semifinalist sign-up times at the designated location.
3. When each team enters the crime scene room, guide them to the demonstration area.

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4. Notify students when time begins. Allow teams five (5) minutes to set up and prepare for the demonstration.
5. Allow ten (10) minutes for the students to demonstrate the selected skill.
6. At the end of the ten (10)-minute period, allow students two (2) minutes to clean up the work space and then escort the students out of the competition room.
7. Collect all materials, including any notes, prior to dismissing the participants.
8. Judges determine the ten (10) finalists. Any ties should be broken by using the highest average team score on the written test.
9. Discuss rule violations (e.g. 20% deduction, disqualification) and have all relevant parties initial the rating form.
10. Submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.
11. Manage security and removal of all materials from the competition area.