OVERVIEW

Participants will conduct research on specified subtopics of a broader technological area. The topic and subtopics will be posted on the TSA website under Competitions/Themes and Problems. Using the knowledge and resources gained through their research, participants will write a comprehensive essay on the one (1) subtopic that is designated on site.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) individuals per state may participate.

TIME LIMITS

Preliminary and Semifinal Rounds: Participants have one (1) hour to complete the essay on-site.

LEAP

An individual LEAP Response is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in (see LEAP Program).

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required.

PROCEDURE

Preliminary Round

1. In preparation for the event, participants research the topic and related subtopics, creating a bulleted outline on 3" x 5" note cards using the format displayed on the following pages.
2. Participants report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program and submit their LEAP Response.
3. One (1) of the subtopics is randomly drawn, and it is this subtopic for which the participants prepare a detailed outline using the format displayed on the following pages.
4. Timing begins after the subtopic is announced.
5. After one (1) hour the participants turn in a detailed outline.
6. The detailed outlines and note cards are reviewed by judges. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time.
7. A list of twelve (12) semifinalists will be posted, in random order.

Semifinalist Round

1. Semifinalists will write an essay on the subtopic as submitted, using their detailed outline.
2. Semifinalists will be given one (1) hour to write an essay on the subtopic.
3. After one (1) hour, each participant turns in an essay not to exceed five (5) pages.
4. Judges review entries, including LEAP Responses. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time.

5. Ten (10) finalists are announced at the awards ceremony.

REGULATIONS

Preliminary Round

A. Each participant is required to bring one (1) 3" x 5" note card for each subtopic.
   1. Participants must handwrite notes on one side of the 3" x 5" note cards (one [1] for each subtopic), and the sources and references will be handwritten on the other side of the note card.
   2. Note cards are not to contain introductory or concluding paragraphs, nor are details to be written in sentence form.
   3. Participants are not permitted to enter the competition area with computer-generated notes, notes that are not handwritten, or notes not contained on 3" x 5" note cards.
   4. The outline on the note card may contain a thesis statement.
   5. The bulleted outline for note cards is required to follow the format on the following pages.
B. All research material brought into the event area must be handwritten on the note cards.
C. Each participant may also bring a dictionary and/or a thesaurus to the event. The dictionary and thesaurus must be in print format, not electronic format.
D. Participants are responsible for bringing a blue or black ink pen to the event site. The pen may be "erasable."
E. Participants may also bring correcting fluid or correction tape to the site.
F. Each participant will be provided with lined paper.
G. The length of the detailed outline is limited to two (2) handwritten pages, one (1) side of the paper only, single-spaced.
H. Each outline page submitted must have the participant entry number only (i.e. no other identifying information) written in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
I. With the outline, participants must turn in a one (1) page bibliography (written on one [1] side of the paper only, using proper MLA bibliography format), and the relevant note card.
J. The relevant note card is to have the participant entry number written in the upper right-hand corner.
K. The detailed outline for the preliminary round is required to include an introductory paragraph, details for a body (of the essay), and a concluding paragraph; all details are to be in sentence form.
L. The detailed outline is required to follow the format displayed on the following pages.
M. Only participants are allowed in the event area.
N. Should a participant finish before the allotted time expires, the participant is allowed to leave quietly but may not reenter the event room.
O. Twelve (12) semifinalists will be determined; semifinalists will write an essay on a subtopic.

Semifinalist Round

A. Participants are allowed to bring correcting fluid or correction tape, and a dictionary and/or thesaurus to the event. The dictionary and thesaurus must be in print format, not electronic format.
B. Participants are responsible for bringing a blue or black ink pen to the event site. The pen may be "erasable."
C. Each participant will receive his/her outline, bibliography, and note card submitted from the preliminary round.

D. Each essay must have the participant's entry number only written in the upper right-hand corner of each page submitted.

E. The essay must be no more than five (5) pages, written on one (1) side of the paper only, and double-spaced. The list of references (bibliography) is not included in the five (5) pages.

F. With the essay, participants must turn in

1. a one (1)-page bibliography (written on one [1] side of the paper only, using proper MLA bibliography format)

2. the outline from the preliminary round

3. the relevant note card

G. All essays, outlines, and note cards become the property of national TSA.

H. 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

Evaluation is based on:

1. Preliminary Round: Entries are evaluated according to the quality of the outline.

2. Semifinalist Round: Entries are evaluated according to the quality of the essay, and the content and quality of the LEAP Response.

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

NOTE

When conducting research, participants should be aware that some web-based resources may have misleading, misrepresentative, or inaccurate information. The credibility of research sources should be verified.

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 or more of the careers below:

- Economist
- Engineer
- Research technician
- Scientist
- Technical writer

OUTLINE FORMAT FOR NOTE CARDS

Title of Essay

I. **Introduction**
   Thesis statement (may be written in sentence form)
II. **Body**
   A. Point A
      1. Supporting detail
      2. Supporting detail
   B. Point B
      1. Supporting detail
      2. Supporting detail
   C. Point C
      1. Supporting detail
      2. Supporting detail
III. **Conclusion**

DETAILED OUTLINE FORMAT PRELIMINARY ROUND

Title of Essay

I. **Introductory paragraph**
II. **Body**
   A.
      1.
         a.
         b.
      2.
         a.
         b.
   B.
      1.
         a.
         b.
      2.
         a.
         b.
   C.
      1.
         a.
         b.
      2.
         a.
         b.
III. **Concluding paragraph**

ESSAYS ON TECHNOLOGY
EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

A. Event coordinator

B. Judges:

  1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more

  2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more

C. Timekeeper, one (1)

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. Stopwatch
  5. Results envelope with coordinator forms

B. Securable room (preferable) during time of the event

C. Lined paper, five (5) sheets per participant in the preliminary round; ten (10) sheets per each participant in the semifinal found.

D. Subtopics, one (1), which is chosen on site as the essay topic

E. Paper clips and staplers for securing note cards, outlines, and essays

F. Tables and chairs for event coordinator, judges, and participants

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. 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 judges/assistants have been scheduled.

  4. Inspect the area or room 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.

B. Preliminary round:

  1. Begin the event at the scheduled time by closing the doors and checking the entry list.

  2. All participants should be in the room at this time. Participants registered but not present may be disqualified.

  3. In order to compete, participants must be on the entry list or must have approval of the CRC.

4. An individual who is not on the entry list is permitted to participate, but the coordinator MUST confirm the individual's eligibility. If it is found that the individual is not registered for the event, the individual is disqualified.

5. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the lateness is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

6. Distribute five (5) sheets of ruled notebook paper to each participant. Provide additional paper as needed.

7. Instruct participants to identify their outline with only their entry number written in the upper right-hand corner of each page submitted. No other identifying information may be included.

8. Remind participants to single-space their outline and submit no more than two (2) pages for evaluation, plus a single page for references, and the note card used for research (each with their entry number in the upper right hand corner).

9. Randomly select one (1) of the subtopics. This subtopic becomes the subject for all the entries.

10. Instruct participants who finish before time is called that they may submit their work and leave quietly.

11. Five (5) minutes before the hour is up, make an announcement that the participants have five (5) minutes to complete their outlines.

12. Exactly one (1) hour after beginning, call time and collect the outlines, reference pages, note cards, and unused paper.

13. Supervise and assist the judges during the evaluation of the outlines and note cards.

14. Each entry must be read independently by two (2) judges.

15. Judges keep working until each entry has been assessed twice.

16. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either
    • to deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or
    • to disqualify the entry
    • The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of these actions on the rating form.

17. The two (2) scores for each entry are averaged and the top twelve (12) entries are determined. These twelve (12) entries are to be posted as semifinalists.

18. Submit the semifinalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

19. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the area.

Semifinalist Round

A. Distribute participant's outlines and note cards from the preliminary round as participants check in to the semifinalist round.

B. Distribute ten (10) sheets of ruled notebook paper to each participant. Provide additional paper as needed.

C. Instruct participants to identify their essay with only their entry number written in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the essay submitted. No other identifying information may be included.

D. Remind participants to double space their written work and submit no more than five (5) essay pages, plus a single page for references (with their entry number in the upper right hand corner).

E. Each participant is required to turn in the outline and the note card used for the preliminary round.

F. Instruct participants who finish before time is called that they may submit their work and leave quietly.

G. Five (5) minutes before the hour is up, make an announcement that the participants have five (5) minutes to complete their essays.

H. Exactly one (1) hour after beginning, call time and collect the essays, reference pages, outlines, note cards, and unused paper.

I. Supervise and assist the judges during the reading of the essays.

J. Each entry must be read and assessed independently by two (2) judges.

1. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either

    • to deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or

    • to disqualify the entry

    • The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of these actions on the rating form.

K. Judges keep working until each entry has been assessed twice and discuss and break any ties, to determine the ten (10) finalists.

L. Submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

M. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the area.

ESSAYS ON TECHNOLOGY

2018 & 2019 OFFICIAL RATING FORM   MIDDLE SCHOOL

Participant/Team ID# _____

Record scores in the column spaces below.

Go/No Go Specifications

Before judging an entry, ensure that all items are present; indicate presence with an "X" in the box. If an item is missing, leave the box blank and place an "X" in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED; this disqualifies the entry and it is not to be judged.

☐   Note cards are present
☐   Bibliography is present
☐   Completed LEAP Response is present
☐   ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

Criterion Performance Levels

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points

Evaluators: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline, 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.

Preliminary Round - Detailed Outline (80 Points)

Criteria	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	Score
Format (X1)	Outline only minimally follows the required format.	Outline generally follows the format, with most items from the format included.	Outline clearly follows the format; elements are in the proper sequence, and all items are included.	
Thesis (X1)	Thesis is not a complete thought and/or is inappropriate for the essay; essay title and thesis do not correlate with one another; thesis lacks creativity.	Thesis is evident, and the idea behind the thesis is generally clear, concise, and/or creative; essay title correlates with the thesis.	Thesis is well structured, concise, and creative; essay title correlates well with thesis.	
Introduction (X1)	Introduction lacks detail; thesis does not help to establish the writer's position.	Introduction creates some interest; thesis clearly states the writer's position.	Introduction is well developed; the thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position.	
Body (of essay) (X1)	Outline of paragraphs lacks main points to support the thesis, and/or there is a poor development of ideas.	Outline of paragraphs includes main points that are related to the thesis; examples have adequate supporting details.	Outline of paragraphs provides well-developed main points directly related to the thesis; supporting examples are concrete and detailed.	
Conclusion (X1)	Conclusion is recognizable, but it does not effectively summarize the topic.	Conclusion effectively summarizes the points of the topic.	Conclusion clearly wraps up the points of the topic and goes beyond restating the thesis.	
Organization (X1)	No discernible organization is apparent.	There is a logical progression of ideas in the outline; some structure is evident.	The outline conveys a logical progression of ideas, with a clear structure that enhances the thesis.	
Mechanics (X1)	Outline contains distracting errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling; handwriting is messy and/or illegible.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are generally correct, with few errors; handwriting is adequate and/or mostly legible.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are correct, with no errors; handwriting is easy to read.	

Preliminary Round - Detailed Outline continued (80 Points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Bibliography (X1)	References are not used effectively and/or do not pertain to the topic; limited quality sources are used; bibliography is not in the proper MLA format.	Most sources used are credible and of good quality; most references help to support the essay topic; bibliography is in the proper MLA format but has some errors.	Outline includes multiple and varied sources, all of which are credible, appropriate, and support the topic; bibliography is in proper MLA format, with no errors.

PRELIMINARY ROUND-DETAILED OUTLINE SUBTOTAL (80 points)
Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above section) must be initialed by the evaluator, coordinator and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right. Indicate the rule violated: _____

PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL (80 points)

Semifinal Round - Essay (118 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Thesis (X1)	Thesis is not a complete thought and/or is inappropriate for the essay; essay title and thesis do not correlate with one another; thesis lacks creativity.	Thesis is evident, but the idea behind the thesis may not be clear or concise, and/or it may be lacking in creativity; essay title somewhat correlates with the thesis.	Thesis is well structured, concise, appropriate, and creative; essay title correlates well with thesis.
Introductory paragraph (X1)	Introduction provides background but may lack detail; thesis does not help to establish the writer's position.	Introduction creates interest; thesis clearly states the position.	Introduction is well developed, it engages the reader, and it creates interest; the thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position.
Body paragraphs (X2)	Paragraphs lack main points to support the thesis, and/or there is a poor development of ideas.	Paragraphs include main points that are related to the thesis; supporting details are adequate.	Paragraphs provide well-developed main points directly related to the thesis; supporting examples are concrete and detailed.
Concluding paragraph (X1)	Conclusion is recognizable, but it does not effectively summarize the topic.	Conclusion effectively summarizes the topic.	Conclusion wraps up the points of the essay and goes beyond restating the thesis.
Organization (X1)	No discernible organization is apparent; transitions are not present.	There is a logical progression of ideas in the essay; transitions are present throughout the essay.	The essay conveys a logical progression of ideas, with a clear structure that enhances the thesis; transitions are mature and graceful.
Style (X1)	The style is confusing and hard to follow; it contains fragments and/or run-on sentences; word choice is simple, ordinary, and/or repetitive.	The style is generally clear, but sentences may lack variety; word choice is appropriate.	The style is smooth, skillful and coherent; sentences are strong and expressive, with varied structure; word choice is appropriate and mature.
Mechanics (X1)	Essay contains distracting errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling; handwriting is messy and/or illegible.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are generally correct, with few errors; handwriting is generally legible.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are correct, with no errors; handwriting is easy to read.

Semifinal Round - Essay continued (118 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Research base (X1)	Essay lacks an adequate research base, and/or very few credible sources are referenced.	Research is conducted appropriately, with generally credible sources.	Essay conveys a comprehensive research base that includes clearly credible sources.
Bibliography (X1)	References are not used effectively and/or do not pertain to the topic; limited quality sources are used; bibliography is not in the proper MLA format.	Most sources used are credible and of good quality; most references help to support the essay topic; bibliography is in the proper MLA format, with only minor errors.	Essay incorporates multiple and varied sources, all of which are credible, appropriate, and support the topic; bibliography is in proper MLA format, with no errors.
LEAP (10% of the total event points)	The individual'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 individual's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and are generally convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are satisfactory.	The individual's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are excellent.
SEMIFINAL ROUND-ESSAY SUBTOTAL (118 points)			
Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the semifinalist section) must be initialed by the evaluator, coordinator and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right. Indicate the rule violated: _____			
SEMIFINAL ROUND SUBTOTAL (118 points)			
(To arrive at the TOTAL score, add the PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL and the SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL.) **TOTAL (198 points)**			

Comments:

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

Evaluator

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____