

2007 PA-TSA Judges Event Feedback

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Agriculture and Biotechnology Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Follow all the directions (i.e. size, number of pages) for each and every requirement➤ Read your text. Have someone else read your text. Make sure it makes sense.➤ Do your own research. Don't just copy pages of text or diagrams.➤ Think. Be curious. Ask a question. Then research because you want to know something.➤ Use easy to read fonts. Space things out appropriately. Paragraphs should be reasonable, not long and endless.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Display board and notebook should not have identical information.➤ Be careful not to block part of your display with your model.➤ Failure to follow the rules.➤ Avoid using generic sources such as Wikipedia. Look for more detailed sources.➤ Make sure charts, graphs, photos or any other supporting information is clearly labeled.

Career Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bring a pen. Sign letter and application.➤ Proofread entries for spelling, grammar, formatting. ("spellcheck" isn't enough)➤ Make sure information is complete such as educational requirements for the position.➤ Cover letter should have return address at top.➤ Know addresses of educational institutions on applications.➤ Be sure you are familiar with proper interviewing techniques – greetings, handshakes, eye contact, posture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Avoid being late.➤ Avoid improper attire at both application and interview.➤ Avoid sloppy penmanship.➤ Avoid chewing gum during interview.➤ Avoid "um's" and "ah's."➤ Avoid one word answers to questions – elaborate and justify answers.

Challenging Technology Issues

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ This is a debate. Interact with each other instead of talking at the judges (See Regulation E)➤ Two sides of issue – make sure to address both.➤ Try to look at each other more than notes.➤ Use all your presentation time. Give as much quality information as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Avoid the distraction of notebook paper. It rustles too much, especially when you are nervous!➤ Avoid READING the info directly from your notes.

Communication Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Entries should possess all the components and these components should meet size and information requirements, as stated in the rules. ➤ Entries should have the required signatures. ➤ Entries should have strong design qualities – good eye movement, strong focal point, effective use of color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Avoid mistakes made by not following the rules. ➤ READ, READ, READ the event rules. ➤ Check sizes, number of pages, signatures.
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Computer Applications

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
Entries should definitely possess the following qualities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Title of project or task ➤ Balance/spacing ➤ Incorporate TSA logo ➤ Color or graphics ➤ Well organized, complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Failure to follow the directions ➤ Failure to include project details ➤ Misspelled words ➤ Inability to use software efficiently ➤ Unprepared for the finalist portion – missing necessary hardware

Construction Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
Entries should definitely possess the following qualities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete notebook – all sections present ➤ Complete, attractive display – model is a nice touch ➤ Something unique that grabs the judges' attention ➤ Make sure the display is within the measurements as specified in the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two students for the interview are specified in the rules. Only one shows up. ➤ Avoid a display with no explanation – pictures only. Use captions to explain your work on your display. ➤ Avoid spelling errors in notebook. Use proper English and good grammar.

Digital Photography Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Be sure to have the proper equipment ➤ Work out conflicts prior the event ➤ Be sure to read all guidelines prior to the event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Avoid being late

Electrical Applications

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Understanding of Ohm's Law ➤ Ability to identify components ➤ Schematic drawing interpretation ➤ Proper use of a bread board ➤ Ability to identify component functions 	

Environmental Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepared for the presentation ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Binder – elaborate more with research and data analysis and include all criteria ➤ Presentation – Go slow, make eye contact, explain vocabulary, be prepared.
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Inventions and Innovations

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notebook and media presentation should contain different information ➤ Notebooks should be attractive – color, graphics. ➤ Prepare for verbal presentation (practice possible questions and answers) ➤ Display boards are a positive addition. ➤ Take advantage of all facets of multi-media presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Participation should not read notebooks for oral presentations. ➤ Do not chew gum during oral presentation.

Leadership Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dress to impress. ➤ Be creative so that answers are unique from other teams. ➤ Be professional. ➤ In written portion, utilize all of the time given. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Don't go too fast. ➤ Elaborate on ideas – don't just mention ➤ Write neatly.

Manufacturing Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craftsmanship – Prepare material well before applying a finish. ➤ Documentation – check spelling. Answer all questions, provide complete documentation. ➤ Working drawings – ask for help from teachers to gain better understanding of working drawings. ➤ Remember that design ideas should focus on products that are inexpensive to produce. 	

Marine Design Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Excellent paperwork – in proper category and labeled in proper order ➤ Display should be easily read 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not including all elements of a criteria ➤ Sloppiness – can't decide if paperwork is accurate

Prepared Presentation

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do not read your speech ➤ Make sure your topic fits the given 	

theme ➤ Slow down and speak up ➤ Match display to speech in topic and sequence	
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Problem Solving

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
➤ Read rules thoroughly ➤ Design first ➤ Listen to directions ➤ Test first before final run ➤ Be realistic about your design	

System Control Technology

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
➤ Carefully read directions ➤ Make sure you solve the problem that was given ➤ Write descriptions carefully – use sentences that make sense ➤ Make sure you have fresh batteries, software, etc. ➤ Test your equipment before the contest.	➤ Carelessness ➤ Whining (my batteries died, my advisor didn't give me the right materials...)

Technical Design Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
➤ Proper drawing techniques ➤ Correct views in the correct location ➤ Follow directions ➤ Neatness ➤ Proper dimensioning	➤ Not following directions ➤ Sloppy work ➤ Not drawing object to correct size ➤ Incorrect or missing dimensions ➤ Not showing proper views

Technical Writing Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
➤ Discuss ideas in same order as listed in introduction ➤ Be sure work specifically covers event topic ➤ Incorporate references into work ➤ Properly cite references ➤ Use extra time to proofread work	➤ Avoid contractions ➤ Avoid sloppy handwriting ➤ Avoid spelling errors. Bring dictionary and thesaurus

Transportation Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
➤ A notebook that contains exactly what the regulations ask for ➤ Practice with gear ratios ➤ Good orthographic drawings with the right dimensions	➤ Don't put name on project ➤ Don't put school name on project ➤ No pre-made gear boxes, regardless of you assembling it or not. It's still made to be put together with the right gears. The purpose of this event is to experiment with gear ratios, not to go out and buy one.

TSA Multimedia

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Approach and delivery message as it pertains to TSA rules and guidelines➤ Creativity➤ Organization – file management as well as information/consent required by TSA, rules, etc.➤ Effective use of media➤ Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Hard to read type – the designs are well done, however, the font and color can distract the viewer.➤ Keep things simple – too much is too much.➤ Poor organization.

Video Challenge

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Include all storyboard components	

PA-Safety Illustration Computer Graphics

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Eye appeal➤ Follow rules➤	