

# 2008 PA-TSA Judges Event Feedback

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### ***Career Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Bring a pen. Sign letter and application.</li><li>➤ Make sure to include all components of the event (i.e. resume and cover letter)</li><li>➤ Introduce yourself at the interview</li><li>➤ Research the salary for your desired position</li><li>➤ Try to be specific about past and future training</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Avoid generalities (be specific)</li><li>➤ Avoid giving your complete life history in either your cover letter or your resume.</li></ul>

### ***Challenging Technology Issues***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Comfortable and pleasant speaking style</li><li>➤ Variety of arguments to support your position</li><li>➤ Make the judges believe you! Be persuasive!</li><li>➤ Back up what you say – Offer examples if you have no statistics</li><li>➤ Look each judge in the eye – at least once.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Too long or too short of a presentation time</li><li>➤ Not pairing up arguments (matching pro/con with partner)</li><li>➤ Overuse of words such as “stuff, like, things”</li><li>➤ Notes are fine but don’t read them as if giving a written report</li><li>➤ Do not just report info – persuade!</li></ul>

### ***Cyberspace Pursuit***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ W3.org validation</li><li>➤ Comprehensive design brief</li><li>➤ Clean, easy to read design</li><li>➤ Appropriate use of graphics</li><li>➤ Original, creative ideas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Avoid excessive animation</li><li>➤ Avoid low contrast of text on background</li><li>➤ Broken links/images</li><li>➤ Develop with MS Word/Publisher</li><li>➤ Ignoring the design brief</li></ul>

### ***Digital Photography Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Excellent understanding of the photographic art</li><li>➤ Good attitude</li><li>➤ Expressive with interpretations</li><li>➤ Good color sense</li><li>➤ Handled deadlines well</li></ul>	

### ***Dragster Design Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Verify all measurements</li><li>➤ Do not assume or estimate – be exact</li></ul>	

### ***Electrical Applications***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Better knowledge of how to draw schematic diagrams</li><li>➤ Having a clean breadboard (not having excessive wires or unnecessary components)</li><li>➤ Knowledge for the test</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Failing to write a good explanation</li><li>➤ Making a confusing circuit</li></ul>

### ***Electronic Game Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Dress according to the rules</li><li>➤ Originality</li><li>➤ Knowledge of topic – how to make a game vocabulary</li><li>➤ Great word processing</li><li>➤ Make sure all items are present, as outlined in the rules</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Poor word processing</li><li>➤ Poor graphics</li></ul>

### ***Flight Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Understanding of how to make a plane fly</li><li>➤ Focus on flight principles – how a plane stays in the air</li></ul>	

### ***Inventions and Innovations***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Include all required components</li><li>➤ Interview participants should look at the judges</li><li>➤ Creativity</li><li>➤ Practicality</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ All interview participants should contribute</li><li>➤ Impractical ideas</li></ul>

### ***Leadership Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Eye contact</li><li>➤ Equal participation from teammates</li><li>➤ Elaborate – take the full time</li><li>➤ Look your best at all times</li><li>➤ Be confident</li><li>➤ Work on and expand teammates' ideas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Watch dress code</li><li>➤ Chewing gum during oral presentation</li><li>➤ Avoid nervous mannerisms (i.e. fidgeting, hand gestures)</li></ul>

### ***Prepared Presentation***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Confidence</li><li>➤ Eye contact</li><li>➤ Visual aid</li><li>➤ Articulation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Slow down – don't talk so fast</li><li>➤ Avoid reading your speech</li></ul>

### ***Problem Solving***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Bring tool box</li><li>➤ Use the full time</li><li>➤ Keep it simple</li><li>➤ Plan first, then build</li><li>➤ Read and follow the instructions as outlined in the design brief</li></ul>	

### ***System Control Technology***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Repeat-ability</li><li>➤ Precision</li><li>➤ Structural stability</li><li>➤ Creativity</li><li>➤ Aesthetics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Unprepared (missing supplies, software)</li><li>➤ Failure to know the rules</li><li>➤ Over-engineering</li><li>➤ Poor mechanisms</li></ul>

### ***Technical Design Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Read the problem... READ, READ, READ</li><li>➤ Check the scale of the drawing</li><li>➤ Neatness and overall appearance</li><li>➤ Use appropriate view – front, top, and right side</li></ul>	

### ***TSA Cup, Marine Design Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Follow the instructions</li><li>➤ Be creative</li><li>➤ Be neat</li><li>➤ Keel/rudder</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Sloppy</li><li>➤ Picking the USA as your country</li></ul>

### ***PA – Black & White Photography***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Originality</li><li>➤ Good print quality – no dust or scratches</li><li>➤ Clarity of photo</li><li>➤ Contrast through lighting</li><li>➤ Good composition – rule of thirds</li><li>➤ Printed well – good contrast and no dust or scratches</li><li>➤ Theme interpretation</li><li>➤ Good exposure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Sharpness</li><li>➤ Flat – no contrast</li><li>➤ Dust and scratches</li><li>➤ Not related to theme</li></ul>

### ***PA – Digital Video Challenge***

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Steady camera skills (use of a tripod)</li><li>➤ Consistent storyline</li><li>➤ Consistent audio levels</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Not turning in a storyboard</li><li>➤ Time of video does not follow specifications</li></ul>

**PA – Materials Process**

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Detailed, dimensioned drawings</li><li>➤ All paperwork in binder</li><li>➤ All rules, criteria, and constraints followed</li><li>➤ Original design</li><li>➤ Quality workmanship</li><li>➤ Follow rules</li><li>➤ Project should be at the student's level of ability</li><li>➤ Read rules in detail</li><li>➤ Quality working drawings required</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Shop project</li><li>➤ Same old thing</li><li>➤ Not turning in a complete binder</li><li>➤ Copying design from other source</li><li>➤ Constructing a project outside personal skill level</li><li>➤ Not following rules</li><li>➤ Don't have any adult do your work</li></ul>

**PA – Mechanical Challenge**

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Make sure that at least 3 different simple machines are used and are an operational part of this overall device</li><li>➤ Make sure device is built for proper year</li><li>➤ Practice with device prior to conference</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Design should keep student's body from going into the game area</li></ul>

**PA – Stencil Logo Design**

Positive characteristics for entries	Negative characteristics for entries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Read and understand all the instructions</li><li>➤ Make display and presentation easy for the judges</li><li>➤ Label everything</li><li>➤ Do original artwork (computer generated artwork is okay, if you know how to use the graphic programs)</li><li>➤ Never use clipart</li></ul>	