

2010 PA-TSA Judges Event Feedback

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Agriculture and Biotechnology Challenge

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ MLA works cited, not just a listing of internet sites➤ Captions for pictures➤ Pictures should also be cited➤ Original diagrams/graphics – not simply pasted from Google	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Avoid putting full paragraphs on poster➤ Avoid putting names or school names on parts of project

Challenging Technology Issues

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Variety of information on topic➤ Confidence in material➤ Use of persuasive tone and words➤ Professional (eye contact, shaking hands)➤ Good posture and poise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Repeating the same information➤ Reading from papers or note cards➤ Eye contact with each other➤ Speeches less than 2 minutes➤ Shyness or lack of enthusiasm

Chapter Team

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Know parliamentary procedure➤ Know motions➤ Memorize opening/closing ceremonies➤ Memorize creed➤ Be aware of what is being voted on, don't forget about the main motion after passing auxiliary motions➤ Clear, concise, legible minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Don't wear nametags➤ No pins on blazer; not official dress code➤ Don't mumble

Communication Challenge

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Layout and design – be mindful of legibility of text and placement➤ Creativity and originality➤ Changing default template text	

Electronic Gaming

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Creativity➤ Fun➤ Unique game➤ Game tells/follows a story➤ Intellect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Using canned images (many games looked the same)➤ Careless/sloppy binders

Environmental Focus

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Papers in order➤ Present with a PowerPoint presentation➤ Show more research➤ Show more data collection➤ Apply it to everyday use➤ Planned and prepared presentation that actively incorporated visual without directly reading from it➤ Binder that incorporates data and cites sources, showing that material is being synthesized➤ Follow binder rubric➤ Presentation is balanced – both members participate readily and triage questions➤ Creativity in presentation – should be engaging throughout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bring a computer for PowerPoint➤ Don't forget a coversheet➤ Extemporaneously speaking for presentation➤ Colloquial language➤ Glossing over problem or information➤ "ums" and "likes"

Global Manufacturing

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Solid presentation – all members participate or be able to answer questions➤ Design though – in-depth design process, including brainstorming and reasons for final design decision➤ Creativity – novel idea/design➤ Design drawings – technical and detailed final drawing➤ Polish/detailed attention – make it clear this was not a rush job	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Avoid one group doing all/most of the work➤ Dimensionless diagrams➤ Last-minute completion/preparation➤ Old idea – avoiding redoing things yet again➤ Blandness in design and display

Inventions and Innovations

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Multimedia presentation ran when started➤ Presenters should work as a team during interview➤ Model/prototype neatly done➤ Presentation should show that the feasibility of the product was researched➤ Binder contains all required elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Spelling errors➤ Interrupting team members who are speaking➤ Reading notecards or presentation boards word for word when presenting➤ Not being prepared at check-in time➤ Lack of enthusiasm about product

Lights, Camera, Action

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Follow instructions – make sure to have proper pages (title, TOC, etc)➤ Make sure to have the right information (conference location, date, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Handing in incomplete work➤ Missing the "simple stuff" (title, TOC, etc)➤ Watch copyright and plagiarism

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Follow rules – especially in relation to copyrights, permissions, etc. ➤ Test DVD on multiple systems (computers and players) to make sure it works ➤ Hand in notebook 	
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Techno Talk

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep design simple ➤ Plan for the amount of time given to build ➤ Work out a code to make messages shorter 	

Transportation Challenge

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Safety – proper enclosure ¼ or less in size opening; bottom must also be enclosed ➤ Student ID# must be displayed on project ➤ On-off switch marked ➤ Need lift and thrust 	

PA-Digital Photography

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adhere to the theme (check website for theme) ➤ Make sure all components are present in the event ➤ Make sure CD is properly burned and labeled – original image in JPG or JPEG format ➤ Follow all guidelines on image size, mounting, finishing, and attachment of required items to back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Edits that do not enhance image (use good judgement and photo naming) ➤ Poor mounting – messy, poor quality ➤ Measure carefully – improperly sized photos, improperly sized mounting board ➤ All items should be properly labeled with ID #'s ➤ Poorly found subjects – use good techniques for focus, depth of field, etc

PA-Materials' Process

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project should meet all requirements ➤ Detailed photo journal (step by step process) ➤ Complete detailed drawings ➤ Interviews – be able to describe the build process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Avoid using glue to fasten all materials within the project ➤ Determining dimensions after building the project

PA-Safety Illustration

Characteristics an entry should possess	Things to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Relate to title ➤ Easy on the eyes (not cluttered, simple, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Follow rules ➤ Mount on board

<p>to the point)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Concise➤ Fits the board➤ Neat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Fill the board➤ Not too much wording on front, too busy➤ No repetition
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