



HOSA Competitive Events: *Looking Back at the Numbers*

HOSA members often look for ideas to help them improve their performance in HOSA competitive events. While it is difficult to identify all the elements that contribute to a successful competitive event experience, we can share some data from the events held at NLC 2008 to help you prepare for 2009.

In written tests, the key to success is getting a better score than all of the other competitors. How do you do that? Quite simply, you need to know more than the other guys!

Health Science Events

How much did the other guys know? At NLC 2008, the highest score for events in the Health Science category are listed in the chart below.

| Event | Highest Score | Event | Highest Score |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Dental Spelling | 96% | Dental Terminology | 84% |
| Medical Terminology | 97% | Medical Math | 96% |
| Medical Spelling | 98% | Nutrition | 87% |
| Concepts of Health Care | 78% | Human Growth & Development | 90% |
| Pathophysiology | 90% | Pharmacology | 90% |

In order to compete in Health Science events, you must learn as much as you can possibility learn about the topics outlined in the test plan. The event test plan is found in the event guidelines.

Health Professions Events

Most of the events in the Health Professions category include a written test and skill performance. Competitors who do well in the skills often do well in on the test. It is important to be well prepared for both.

Most event medalists in skill events score very well on the skills, with many earning perfect scores. If you are participating in a skill event, be sure you can perform ALL of the skills to perfection, and in the time allowed. Perfection takes practice, but it can be done.

Emergency Preparedness Events

The strategies for success are similar to the strategies for the Health Professions events. The difference in four events in this category is teamwork – and teamwork requires practice.

Leadership and Teamwork Events

In addition to effort and practice, these events are very specific in their requirements, and competitors must follow the event guidelines.

Do individuals and teams make it to the National Leadership Conference and still lose points for not following the guidelines? YES! In 2008, 16% of individual competitors lost points in Job Seeking Skills and Interviewing Skills because they did not following the guidelines for electronic submission of the cover letter and resume.

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In Researched Persuasive Speaking, 59% of competitors did not follow the guidelines for submission of the research paper. Competitors who did not earn the points mostly lost points for using bold face type on the cover page, or included their name and school on the cover page.

In Medical Photography, 8% of the competitors lost points for not following the guidelines.

In the Career Health Display event, 72 out of 74 teams followed the size rules for the display, two did not.

In the Public Service Announcement event, two out of 26 teams did not follow the time requirement for the 30-second PSA.

More Numbers from NLC 2008

What event at NLC 2008 had the most competitors?

The Kaiser Permanente Healthcare Issues Exam had the most competitors with 378 competitors. HOSA Bowl and Creative Problem Solving were the next most popular events with 214 and 211 competitors respectively.

The most contested individual event was Medical Photography with 77 competitors.

Most NLC competitors (72%) were competing in their first National Leadership Conference. 20% were at their second, and 6% were at their third NLC.

The biggest number from NLC 2008 was 4194. That's the record number of registered competitors from across the United States who participated in the 2008 HOSA National Leadership Conference.

And, we're looking for even bigger numbers at NLC 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee. We hope to see you there!