



EXTEMPORANEOUS WRITING

- Purpose:** To encourage Health Science students to improve their ability to express themselves in writing.
- Description:** Competitors shall report to the site of the event where they will be presented the topic by the event manager. They will have one hour to write an essay on the topic.
- Dress Code:** Competitors must be in official HOSA uniform or in proper business attire. Bonus points will be awarded for proper dress.
- Rules and Procedures**
1. Competitors in this event must be active members of HOSA in good standing in the category in which they are registered to compete (Secondary or Postsecondary/Collegiate).
 2. The topic shall relate to current health issues or HOSA. All competitors shall write on the same topic. The topic is a secret topic that is not disclosed until the event begins.
 3. The event orientation and competition (writing of the essay) will be combined. Event proxies will NOT be allowed for this event.
 4. Competitors shall report to the site of the event at the appropriate time. Competitors will be seated at desks or tables and will be provided with lined paper or blue books, a copy of the topic, and one paper clip. Competitors will provide their own blue or black pen and/or pencil for the event.
 5. Competitors will write an essay based on the selected topic and will turn it in to the event manager/section leader when they are finished. The maximum time allowed for writing this essay will be one (1) hour.
 6. Competitors will write on only one side of the page. Scrap pages will be turned in to the event manager/section leader who will discard them.
 7. The finished essay to be judged must have the title of the essay (assigned topic) on the top of the first page, the competitor number on the top right hand corner of all pages, and the page number on the bottom right hand corner of all pages. The pages will be held together by a paper clip (if needed).
 8. If blue books are used, the blue books will be the larger size (8"x10" or larger) and competitors may only write on one side of the page. When a blue book is used, the competitor number does not need to be written on all pages.
 9. The timekeeper will announce when there are 30 minutes remaining, 15 minutes remaining, 5 minutes remaining, and 30 seconds remaining. At the end of one hour, all essays will be collected. No late essays will be accepted.
 10. Each competitor may bring into the event room one (1) dictionary and/or one (1) thesaurus and/or one (1) *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary*. These books will be checked by the event manager as the competitor enters the event room.

11. No other printed materials or prepared notes shall be allowed at the event site. (With the exception of the event guidelines which the competitor brings to be used during the event orientation.)
12. Should a tie occur, scores on the rating sheet section(s) with the highest point value(s), in descending order, will be used to break the tie.
13. Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the "**General Rules and Regulations of the National HOSA Competitive Events Program.**"
14. All essays become the property of National HOSA and the competitor grants permission for the use of the essay in HOSA publications, etc.

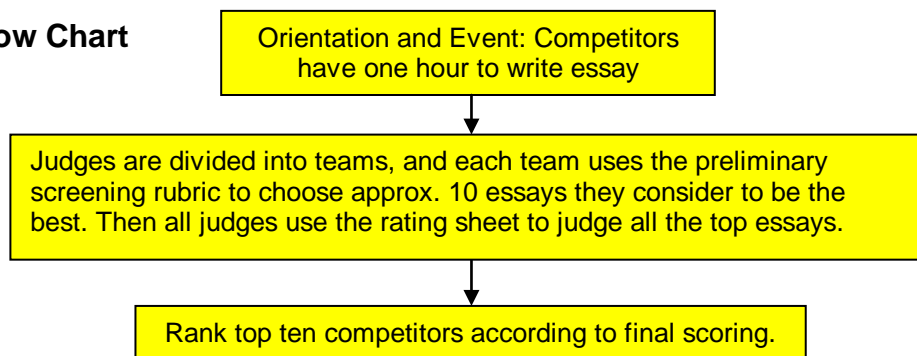
Required Personnel (Per Section):

1. One (1) Event Manager (per event)
2. One (1) Section Leader
3. One (1) Timekeeper
4. Two - Three judges. (It is recommended that at least one judge have a background in a health profession and one with experience in English grammar and composition.)
[At the national conference, the essays will be divided into two smaller groups. Judges will be divided into teams who will be responsible to choose 10 essays from each group. Then all judges will use the rating sheet to score the top 20 essays.]
5. One-two event assistants per section

Facilities, Equipment and Materials (Per Section):

1. Room with individual desks or tables for each competitor, and one large table for the chairman and supplies
 2. One (1) stopwatch
 3. Hand calculator(s)
 4. Pens for judges, paper clips and ample lined plain white 8 ½" x 11" paper or blue books (8"x10" or larger).
 5. One (1) copy of the topic for each competitor
 6. Two (2) dictionaries (for Judges use only)
 7. Two (2) thesaurus (for Judges use only)
 8. Two (2) *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary* (for Judges use only)
 - *** 9. Pencils/pens to be brought to the competitive event by competitor.
 - *** 10. Thesaurus and/or dictionary (if wanted by competitor for use in competition)
 - *** 11. Print copy of the event guidelines for the event orientation
- *** To be brought to the event by competitors.

Event Flow Chart



EXTEMPORANEOUS WRITING JUDGE'S RATING SHEET

Section # _____

Level _____ SS _____ PS/Collegiate

Competitor # _____

Judge's Signature _____

Items Evaluated	Points Possible					Points Allocated
	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
1. Content:						
Coverage of Secret Topic	10	8	6	4	2	
Clear main idea with supportive information	10	8	6	4	2	
Insight	10	8	6	4	2	
Creativity/Originality	10	8	6	4	2	
2. Organization:						
Opening Statement	10	8	6	4	2	
Body of Essay	10	8	6	4	2	
Closing	10	8	6	4	2	
3. Coherence of Thought <i>Each paragraph logically linked to the main idea</i>	10	8	6	4	2	
4. Structure:						
Grammar	5	4	3	2	1	
Spelling	5	4	3	2	1	
Punctuation	5	4	3	2	1	
Neatness and legibility	5	4	3	2	1	
Total Points	100	80	60	40	20	

Comments:

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PRELIMINARY SCREENING INSTRUCTIONS

The event guidelines include the following instructions for judging this event:

The essays will be divided into two smaller groups. Judges will be divided into teams who will be responsible to choose 10 essays from each group. Then all judges will use the rating sheet to score the top 20 essays.

For preliminary screening, judges should refer to the following rubric when separating essays into four piles (4, 3, 2, and 1) to correspond with the numbers and criteria below. The HOSA event rating sheet should be used to individually judge the top essays.

** Note: These instructions do not apply when there are fewer than 15 to be judged. When there are fewer than 15 essays in a division, the Judges Rating Sheet will be used to evaluate all essays.*

4

Interesting throughout
Flows smoothly, good transitions
Well-organized for topic
Good use of mechanics and sentence-structure

3

Interesting most of the time
Flows smoothly but some poor transitions
Organized but some weaknesses
Minor mechanical errors

2

Interest lowered by lapses in focus
Flow is interrupted by many poor transitions
Organization weak, strays from topic
Some serious mechanical errors

1

No clear focus
Jerky and rambling
Poorly organized
Many mechanical errors and weak sentence structure