

DECA Competition Tips

Issue #1

TEAM and SERIES ROLE PLAYS

- ❖ **Prepare Yourself.** Have your ideas proofed, highlighted and organized. Be sure to look over event guidelines and judges evaluation forms to know what to expect. Also, make sure to find your competition room ahead of time to make sure that you know where to report at your designated time.
- ❖ **Arrive Early to Your Event.** Make sure that you arrive at least 15 minutes early to your event so that you will have time to prepare and review your presentation, if needed.
- ❖ **Do NOT:** bring your cell phone. You do not want it to ring during your presentation.
- ❖ **DO:** have all that you will need for your event. Whether this may be pencils, pens, visual aids, a laptop or any other items, bring them if they are needed during your presentation. Make sure to bring a calculator for the exam.
- ❖ **All participants must take part in the presentation.** There will be points given or taken away depending whether or not all members within the group participated.
- ❖ **Performance Indicators.** These are VERY important. This is what you are scored upon. Be sure and talk about each indicator during your presentation.
- ❖ **Prepare with a format.** Take the performance indicators and plan your role play answers around them. Make notes to take into your role play that are easy to read and fast to reference so you do not lose your place or spend your entire time reading your notes.
- ❖ **Make a visual aid.** You do not have much time, but if you are able to outline your presentation in a bulleted format that you can use as a visual to show your judge what you are talking about, it will help. If your role plays discuss something you can diagram (such as floor plans)—do it!
- ❖ **Score Sheet/ “Given” Points.** Be sure to act professionally, polite, have passion/energy, and dress professionally. If you do these things, there are several points on the score sheet that should be a ‘given’. The judges should have no reason to mark you down in this section if you do all of these things.

- ❖ **Slow down.** Many competitors try to put so much information into their role play that they overload the judges. Give the judges time to take in and process what you have told them. If this means you must cut out some of the content, that is okay. It is better to have good quality content than a large quantity of content.
- ❖ **Make a good first impression.** Walk up to the judges and offer your hand. Introduce yourself. Be confident and remember to thank the judges for their time. Make sure to maintain good eye contact and a good posture during your entire presentation. Plan to begin the role play or have a beginning prepared in case the judges do not begin the role play. Make sure to close just as strongly as you open.
- ❖ **Teams:** Plan in advance who will begin and end the role play. Use the same person each time for every role play so you do not become nervous and forget or take over your partner's portion of the presentation. You should also come up with a non-verbal method to tell your partner it is his/her turn to speak or that he/she should answer the questions. Remember, in a team presentation, a portion of your score is on how well you distribute the role play between the partners.
- ❖ **Be memorable.** Do not just give the judges an answer or solution to the role play, think of a way to be unique. The judges will see around 20 role plays in one day... how will you stand out? Will it be what you say, wear, do?
- ❖ **Remember... judges are people, too!** They are business people from the community who want to see you succeed. They are not there to crush you, they want to see all of the good ideas you have and what great things you have done. Most judges will be in their 40's and 50's... the same age as your parents. Many have high school students at home and understand you. You will likely have two or three judges.
- ❖ **Have a positive attitude—you CAN do this!**
- ❖ **Take a deep breath and have fun!**

GOOD LUCK!

Any Questions?

E-mail: Deborah.gadeca@gmail.com