

Extemporaneous Writing Health Policy

Dress Code	Official HOSA uniform or business professional attire
Round # 1	There is only one round for this event. Competitors will be given 1 hour to write their essay on a secret healthcare or HOSA related topic. All competitors shall write on the same topic.
NOTE:	Please be sure to check the “Montana Gotta Have It” list or notes below about computer and internet requirements to be sure you have a proper device.

Event Summary

NEW FOR 2023-2024: The focus of this event has changed to Health Policy Writing instead of an essay about a HOSA/health topic. The secret topic received at the competition will be about an item related to health policy. Competitors will be required to write a letter of support or opposition to the given topic which would be shared with the relevant policy maker(s). This event aims to inspire members to learn more about current health policy and gain the knowledge and skills to feel empowered to make a difference by voicing their opinions on important health topics to applicable decision makers to effect change.

Competitive Process

Competitors will work in a computer lab and have access to a printer. They will work in a non-internet based word processing program such as Microsoft Word. They will have 60 minutes to write and print their letter.

The letter will include the below key items. Competitors must memorize these key points to include in their letter:

- Name and address of addressee (this information will be listed in the secret topic)
- Appropriate salutation to addressee
- Subject line
- Constituent (competitor who is writing the letter) with address and email so that you may be contacted with a response.
- Statement of why you support or oppose the given bill/health policy issue
- 3 points that support your position
- Include reasoning and evidence about why the issue is important to you and/or how it affects you, your family, or members of the community
- A strong conclusion restating your position and indicating you would like a response back.

Note- no printed materials or prepared notes shall be allowed at the event location.

Time Remaining Announcements: There will be a verbal announcement when there are 30 minutes, 15 minutes, 5 minutes, and 1 minute remaining in this event.

Supplies

No printed materials or prepared notes shall be allowed at the event location.

Use of the Internet and other computer tools: Internet use is NOT provided and not allowed. This includes any internet / cloud based computers. Spell-check, grammar check, and thesaurus may be used if available on computer, and can be accessed without internet use. No plagiarism is allowed and work must be that of the competitors per the [GRR #13-16](#).

Sample Topic:

You are a HOSA student in Montana. The current legislative session is hearing HB-300: Revise Education Laws Related to Career and Technology Student Organizations.

HB-300 expands funding for seven CTSOs (Career and Technology Student Organizations) in the state, including HOSA. The bill would give \$500,000 total to the CTSOs in the state. Proponents of the bill argue that the funding is vital to assisting CTSOs in their work with students and that investing in education is always a good decision. Opponents of the bill argue evidence is lacking for the effectiveness of CTSOs and that the money would be better spent and managed elsewhere.

*You are to write a letter of support or opposition to HB-300 addressed to:
Senator Marie Wilson
PO Box 1234
Cricket, MT, 55555*

EXTEMPORANEOUS WRITING –Health Policy Judge’s Rating Sheet

Competitor # _____ Judge’s Signature _____

A. Adherence to Guidelines	Excellent 5 points	Good 4 points	Average 3 points	Fair 2 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Name, Address and appropriate salutation of Addressee	Letter contains: 1. name of addressee 2. Address 3. appropriate salutation	-	Letter contains 2 of the 3 items.	-	Letter contains 0-1 of the 3 items.	
2. Subject Line	Subject line is included.	-	-	-	Subject line is not included.	
3. Identification of Constituent with address	Constituent is identified with address and email included.	-	-	-	Constituent is not identified and/or information missing	
B. Content	Excellent 15 points	Good 12 points	Average 8 points	Fair 5 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1.Statement of Support or Opposition to Given Bill/Health Policy	The statement of support or opposition catches the reader's attention, provides background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition catches the reader's attention, provides some background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition fails to catch the reader's attention, provides some background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition does not catch the reader's attention, provides little background on the topic, and fails to be the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition does not catch the reader's attention, provides no background on the topic, and fails to be the central point of the letter.	
B. Content	Excellent 10 points	Good 8 points	Average 6 points	Fair 4 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
2. Supporting Point #1	Writing includes strong pieces of evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that mostly supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses some sensory/concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	
3. Supporting Point #2	Writing includes strong pieces of evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that mostly supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses some sensory/concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	

B. Content	Excellent 10 points	Good 8 points	Average 6 points	Fair 4 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
4. Supporting Point #3	Writing includes strong pieces of evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that mostly supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses some sensory/concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	
B. Content	Excellent 15 points	Good 12 points	Average 8 points	Fair 5 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
5. Personal Story	Demonstrates command of the topic throughout the letter. Discusses the topic and its significance to competitor and/or community. Uses the topic as a path for the letter. Competitor offers explanations & insights that enhance the understanding of the topic.	Mentions topic and its significance to competitor and/or community. Uses the topic as a path for the letter. Competitor offers explanations and insights that link back to the topic.	Mentions topic and briefly explains its significance to competitor and/or community.	Briefly mentions topic but does not provide any analysis or reasoning behind significance of the topic to competitor and/or community.	Did not include much in the way of significance to competitor and/or community.	
C. Conclusion	Excellent 10 points	Good 8 points	Average 6 points	Fair 4 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Conclusion	Conclusion is concise and summarizes supporting points; restates the competitor's position in a new way. The judge is satisfied with the conclusion and is left with something to think about.	Conclusion is mostly concise and summarizes the supporting points. The judge is indifferent with the conclusion of the letter.	Conclusion provides a summary of supporting points: it does not restate the competitor's position.	Conclusion may be attempted but does not summarize or restate competitor's position.	No conclusion is apparent in the letter.	
C. Conclusion	Excellent 5 points	Good 4 points	Average 3 points	Fair 2 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
2. Indication of Request for Response	The competitor clearly requests a response	-	-	-	Request for a response is missing.	
D. Organization	Excellent 5 points	Good 4 points	Average 3 points	Fair 2 points	Poor 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Grammar	Zero (0) grammatical errors found in this letter.	1-2 grammatical errors were found in this letter. They do not detract from the general flow of the letter.	3-4 errors were found in the letter, and they detract from the overall flow of the letter.	There are 5-6 grammatical errors present which detract from the meaning and flow of the letter.	More than 6 errors were found. The errors are glaring, and the letter is difficult to read.	
2. Spelling & Punctuation	Zero (0) errors in spelling and punctuation were found in this letter.	1-2 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this letter.	3-4 errors in spelling or punctuation in this letter.	5 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this letter.	5 or more errors in spelling or punctuation were documented	

					within the letter.	
Total Points (100):						