MT HOSA

Researched Persuasive Writing & Speaking

Event Category: Leadership

Dress Code: Official HOSA uniform or business professional attire	**Round One:** Digital upload of research paper, pre-judged virtually	**Digital Upload:** YES, research paper
Solo Event: 1 competitor	**Round Two:** Speech (5 minutes)	**Materials Allowed in Speech:** Notecards (optional)

Event Summary

Researched Persuasive Writing and Speaking allows HOSA members to gain the knowledge and skills required to research a health issue, prepare written documentation supporting a thesis, and present information orally. This competitive event requires competitors to develop a speech and written paper, either for or against the provided annual health topic.

2026-2027 Event Topic:

Should Pharmaceutical Companies Advertise?

ROUND ONE- Digital Upload of Research Paper (Pre-judged virtually)

Research Paper Details	1. The research paper will include the following four (4) pages: a. Page 1; **Title Page** b. Pages 2-3; **Body of Paper** c. Page 4+ (or more if reference list takes up multiple pages); **Reference Page(s)** 2. **Title Page:** Create a title page, including the following: Event name, Competitor Name, HOSA Division, HOSA Chapter #, School Name, Chartered Association, Title of Paper including Topic Stance. Title page is centered, One page only. (A creative design or pictures may be used but will not affect the score.) 3. **Body of Paper** formatting: a. Pages are one-sided, typed b. 12 pt. Arial font, double-spaced, in English c. 1" margins on 8 ½" x 11" paper d. Running header with last name, & name of the event, on the top left side of each page (not counting title page) e. Include the page number on the top right side of each page (not counting the title page) 4. **Reference Page:** List the literature cited to guide the written paper and speech. American Psychological Association (APA) is the preferred resource in Health Sciences. *Points will be awarded for compiling a clean, legible reference page(s), but the formatting of the reference page(s) is not judged.* 5. No plagiarism is allowed and the work must be the competitor's per the GRR's.

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REQUIRED Digital Upload	6. Competitors **MUST** upload the following item(s) to the Digital Upload System by March 19 for SLC. ● The research paper- as ONE PDF file. **If the upload is not submitted as a single PDF document, the judge will NOT view it and NO points will be awarded. In addition, any links or documents that are not accessible to the judge for viewing, no points will be awarded.** 7. **March 19** at midnight EST is the final deadline, and there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS.** We STRONGLY suggest not waiting until the last minute to upload online to avoid user challenges with the system. 8. Detailed instructions for uploading materials can be found at https://hosa.org/competitive-event-digital-uploads/ 9. For SLC, the digital materials uploaded by March 19 will be PRE-JUDGED. Competitors who do not upload materials are NOT eligible for the Round Two presentation portion of the competition and **will NOT be given a competition appointment time at SLC**.

ROUND TWO- Speech to Judges

1. The top competitors from Round One in each division will advance to Round Two, the speech.. The number of advancing competitors will be determined by criteria met in Round One, as well as space and time available for Round Two. Competitors shall report to the event site 10 minutes before their appointment time.
2. **The speech will be no more than five (5) minutes.** The timekeeper will announce when there is one (1) minute remaining in the presentation. The timekeeper will stop the presentation after five (5) minutes.
3. The speech may or may not be worded exactly as written in the researched written paper. The main ideas must remain the same, but the competitor may elaborate in the speech.
4. Use of index card notes during the speech is permitted. Electronic notecards (on a tablet, smartphone, laptop, etc.) are allowed, but will not be shown to judges. Please refer to GRRs. No other props or materials are allowed, including the research paper.

Final Scoring

1. Scores from pre-judged research papers will be added to the speech score to determine the final results.

2. Should a tie occur, scores on the rating sheet section(s) with the highest point value(s) will be used in descending order to break the tie.

Future Opportunities

The HOSA Scholarship program has funding available for HOSA members who have an interest in various health careers! The application process begins January 1, 2027, and can be found here: https://hosa.org/scholarships/.

Graduating from high school or completing your postsecondary/collegiate program does not mean your HOSA journey has to end. As a HOSA member, you are eligible to become a HOSA Lifetime Alumni Member- a free and valuable opportunity to remain connected, give back, and help to shape the future of the organization. Learn more and sign up at hosa.org/alumni.

Researched Persuasive Writing & Speaking

Round One- Written Research Paper (pre-judged)

Competitor#:_____ **Division:**_____SS_____PS/C **Judge's Signature:**_____

One PDF File of the completed paper Uploaded Online: Yes ___ No*

If the submission is NOT uploaded as a PDF file, judges will not score the submission.

A. Written Paper	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Title Page	Title Page includes Competitor Name, HOSA Division, HOSA Chapter #, School Name, Chartered Assoc, Title of Paper including Topic Stance, Title page centered, One page.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Paper not submitted OR title page does not include all requirements OR is not present.	
A. Written Paper	**EXCELLENT 10 points**	**GOOD 8 points**	**AVERAGE 6 points**	**FAIR 4 points**	**POOR 0 points**	**JUDGE SCORE**
2. Opening Statement	The writer grabs attention of the reader. The introduction is creative, imaginative, and thoughtful. The thesis clearly revealed and well-structured for the paper; it forecasts body of paper memorably and effectively.	The writer somewhat grabs the reader's attention. The thesis is stated and appropriate for the paper. The forecast is structured so the audience knows the main points in brevity.	The audience is reading with some engagement. The thesis needs strength or structure. Forecast incomplete.	The attention device is unrelated to the topic. Thesis missing OR forecast statement missing.	Paper not submitted OR attention device is missing. Thesis inappropriate or missing AND forecast is missing or indistinguishable.	
3. Coverage of assigned event topic & quality of information	The information included high-quality details that support the topic in a thorough manner. Research was in-depth and beyond the obvious, revealing new insights. Overall, the coverage of the assigned topic was excellent.	Information included sufficient detail relevant to the topic. Research seemed to be in-depth. The coverage of the assigned topic was good.	The quality of the information was limited to support the topic. The competitor provided an average amount of coverage on the assigned topic.	Some information provided was relevant to the topic. Research provided was mostly surface-level and the competitor missed key points.	Paper not submitted OR information was unreliable and interfered with the ability of the audience to understand the speech. Research was irrelevant to the assigned topic.	
4. Originality	Writing reflects the original thoughts of the author and extends a creative or unique idea, question or concept on the topic. No evidence of plagiarism.	Writing reflects the original thoughts of the author and provides some unique ideas on the topic. No evidence of plagiarism.	Some original thoughts are provided by the author. Creativity is experimented with on the topic. No evidence of plagiarism.	Limited originality is provided by the author on the topic. No evidence of plagiarism.	Paper not submitted OR There was evidence of plagiarism.	
5. Conclusion	Conclusion is concise and summarizes supporting points and restates the thesis in a new way. The reader is satisfied with the conclusion and is left with something to think about.	Conclusion is mostly concise and summarizes the supporting points. The reader is indifferent with the conclusion of the essay.	Conclusion provides a summary of supporting points. It does not restate the thesis.	Conclusion may be attempted but does not summarize or restate thesis.	Paper not submitted OR no conclusion is apparent in the essay.	

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A. Written Paper	EXCELLENT 20 points	GOOD 15 points	AVERAGE 10 points	FAIR 5 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
6. Persuasiveness	The paper was exceptionally persuasive and convincing. The competitor provided well-researched evidence that reinforced their position on the topic.	The paper was persuasive and provided good reasons to agree with the competitor's point of view.	The paper was somewhat persuasive and provided some reasons to agree with the competitor's point of view.	The paper provided limited evidence of competitor's point of view and was not very persuasive.	Paper not submitted OR the paper was not persuasive and did not provide evidence to support the competitor's point of view.	
A. Written Paper	**EXCELLENT 5 points**	**GOOD 4 points**	**AVERAGE 3 points**	**FAIR 2 points**	**POOR 0 points**	**JUDGE SCORE**
7. Transitions	Writing has voice and is easily read aloud. Appropriate transitions are used to move from one supporting detail to the next. Word choice and syntax offer surprise, clarity and "just right" wording.	Writing has some voice and is easily read aloud. Transitions are used, but better wording could have been used.	Vocabulary or writing style needs further development in sentence variety, word choice, and fluency. Some basic transitions used.	Sentences are short, fragmented or run-ons. Flow of essay is hard to follow. Few to no transitions are used.	Paper not submitted OR no flow to writing. Difficult for reader to follow. No transitions used.	
8. Grammar	Zero (0) grammatical errors found in this essay.	1-2 grammatical errors were found in this essay. They do not detract from the general flow of the essay.	3-4 errors were found in the essay, and they detract from the overall flow of the essay.	There are 5-6 grammatical errors present which detract from the overall meaning and flow of the essay.	Paper not submitted OR more than 6 errors were found in this essay. The errors are glaring, and the essay is difficult to read.	
9. Spelling & Punctuation	Zero (0) errors in spelling and punctuation were found in this essay.	1-2 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this essay.	3-4 errors in spelling or punctuation in this essay.	5 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this essay.	Paper not submitted OR more than 5 errors in spelling or punctuation were documented within the essay.	
10. Formatting	Pages: a. Are one-sided, typed, b. Use 12 pt. Arial font, double-spaced, in English, c. Are 1" margins on 8 ½" x 11" paper, d. Use running header with last name, event on top left, and page number top right side of each page (not counting title page). e. No more than two pages for body of paper.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Paper not submitted OR all requirements are not met.	
11. Reference Page(s)	The reference page is included with the paper.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Paper not submitted OR no reference page is included.	
Subtotal Points for Pre-judged Written Research Paper (90):						

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Researched Persuasive Writing & Speaking

Round Two- Speech Rubric

Competitor#:_____ **Division:**_____SS_____PS/C **Judge's Signature:**_____

A. Speech Content	**EXCELLENT 15 points**	**GOOD 12 points**	**AVERAGE 9 points**	**FAIR 6 points**	**POOR 0 points**	
1. Introduction	The competitor grabs the attention of the audience in a way that is creative, imaginative and thoughtful. The thesis statement is clearly revealed and well-structured for speech.	The competitor draws in the audience with their introduction and piques their interest to want to learn more. The thesis statement connects to body of the speech.	The competitor provides an average introduction of the topic and slightly sparks the interest and attention of the audience.	The introduction provided by the competitor lacks attention to detail and connection to the overall point of the speech.	The competitor does not provide an introduction that draws in the audience and captures their attention.	
2. Overall coverage of assigned event topic & quality of information	Information included high-quality details that support the event topic in a thorough manner. Research was in-depth and revealed new insights. Overall, the coverage of the assigned topic was excellent.	Information included sufficient detail relevant to the topic. Research seemed to be in-depth. The coverage of the assigned topic was good.	The quality of the information was limited to support the topic. The competitor provided an average amount of coverage on the assigned topic.	Some information provided was relevant to the topic. Research provided was mostly surface-level and the competitor missed key points of the assigned topic.	Information was unreliable and interfered with ability of the audience to understand the speech. Research was irrelevant to the assigned topic and the competitor missed the point of the topic.	
3. Conclusion	The competitor reviews the thesis and main points of speech in a memorable and effective way that provides an effective flow leading to the conclusion.	The competitor reviews the thesis and main points of speech in a clear way that provides an adequate flow leading to the conclusion.	The competitor reviews the thesis and main points clearly. Underwhelming conclusion.	The competitor is missing a review of the thesis or main points. The conclusion was hard to follow.	Review of the thesis and main points are missing from the conclusion.	
A. Speech Content	**EXCELLENT 20 points**	**GOOD 15 points**	**AVERAGE 10 points**	**FAIR 5 points**	**POOR 0 points**	
4. Persuasiveness	The speech is exceptionally persuasive and convincing. The competitor provided well-researched evidence that reinforced their position on the topic.	The speech was persuasive and provided good reasons to agree with the competitor's point of view.	The speech was somewhat persuasive and provided some reasons to agree with the competitor's point of view.	The speech provided limited evidence of competitor's point of view and was not very persuasive.	The speech was not persuasive and did not provide evidence to support the competitor's point of view.	
B. Speech Delivery	**EXCELLENT 5 points**	**GOOD 4 points**	**AVERAGE 3 points**	**FAIR 2 points**	**POOR 0 points**	
1. Voice; pitch, tempo, volume, quality	The competitor's voice was loud enough to hear. The competitor varied rate & volume to enhance the speech. Appropriate pausing was employed.	The competitor spoke loudly and clearly enough to be understood. The competitor varied rate OR volume to enhance the speech. Pauses were attempted.	The competitor could be heard most of the time. The competitor attempted to use some variety in vocal quality, but not always successfully.	Judges had difficulty hearing /understanding much of the speech due to little variety in rate or volume.	The competitor's voice is too low or monotone. Judges struggled to stay focused during most of the presentation.	

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B. Speech Delivery	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	
2. Stage Presence; Poise, posture, eye contact, enthusiasm	Movements & gestures were purposeful and enhanced the delivery of the speech and did not distract. Body language reflects comfort interacting with audience. Facial expressions and body language consistently generated a strong interest and enthusiasm for the topic.	The competitor maintained adequate posture and non-distracting movement during the speech. Some gestures were used. Facial expressions and body language sometimes generated an interest and enthusiasm for the topic.	Stiff or unnatural use of nonverbal behaviors. Body language reflects some discomfort interacting with audience. Limited use of gestures to reinforce verbal message. Facial expressions and body language are used to try to generate enthusiasm but seem somewhat forced.	The competitor's posture, body language, and facial expressions indicated a lack of enthusiasm for the topic. Movements were distracting.	No attempt was made to use body movement or gestures to enhance the message. No interest or enthusiasm for the topic came through in presentation.	
3. Diction, Pronunciation and Grammar * Definition of Diction – Choice of words especially with regard to correctness, clearness, and effectiveness. ** Definition of Pronunciation – Act or manner of uttering officially.	Delivery emphasizes and enhances message. Clear enunciation and pronunciation. No vocal fillers (ex: "ahs," "uh/ums," or "you-knows"). Tone heightened interest and complemented the verbal message.	Delivery helps to enhance message. Clear enunciation and pronunciation. Minimal vocal fillers (ex: "ahs," "uh/ums," or "you-knows"). Tone complemented the verbal message	Delivery adequate. Enunciation and pronunciation suitable. Noticeable verbal fillers (ex: "ahs," "uh/ums," or "you-knows"). Tone seemed inconsistent at times.	Delivery quality minimal. Regular verbal fillers (ex: "ahs," "uh/ums," or "you-knows") present. Delivery problems cause disruption to message.	Many distracting errors in pronunciation and/or articulation. Monotone or inappropriate variation of vocal characteristics. Inconsistent with verbal message.	
					Subtotal Points for Speech (80):	
					Total Points (Research Paper & Speech) (170):	

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