

## **Economic Research Team (S) (160)**

### **Description**

One economic research topic is selected by the National Center and provided at the beginning of the school year. The team will conduct research on the topic and present findings in a research paper, an oral presentation, and respond to questions from a panel of judges.

### **Eligibility**

Any student member may enter this team event. A team will consist of 2-4 members. Each team may submit only one (1) research paper. Contestants participating in national level competition must be registered for the event prior to submission deadline for technical judging. Teams must participate in both parts of the competition in order to be ranked.

### **Team must supply**

One envelope containing the materials as listed in the specifications section.

Notes or note cards for oral presentation (optional).

Teams may use a computer, projection equipment, product displays and props (charts, graphs, tables, etc. in their presentation (optional)

Props (optional)

Carry-in and set-up of equipment must be done solely by the team and take place within the allotted time

No Internet access will be provided on-site at the NLC; however, contestants/teams may provide their own access to be used only for their presentation to the judges

Teams must bring all supporting devices (e.g., extension cords, power supply, etc.)

**No equipment, supplies, or materials other than those specified for an event will be allowed in the testing area.**

**No previous Business Professionals of America tests and/or sample tests or facsimiles thereof (handwritten, photocopied, or keyed) may be taken into the testing area. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.**

### **Competencies**

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic economic concepts in exploring and analyzing global and domestic economic issues
- Evaluate research and communicate findings both orally and in writing
- Explore basic economic concepts that affect the workplace
- Identify economic systems Explain how economic growth can be promoted and measured
- Conduct research using various resources and methods
- Analyze basic economic problems

### **Specifications**

- This is a pre-submitted event. See instructions for submissions.
- The completed research paper and a [Team Entry Form](http://www.bpa.org/submit) must be submitted to the National Center at <http://www.bpa.org/submit> in .pdf format no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Time on April 1, 2016.
- Contestants will receive an automated response confirmation at the time of submission.
- Individual confirmation of receipt cannot be provided by the National Center.
- No fax or mailed copies will be accepted.
- No exceptions can be made for missed deadlines due to incorrect submission or technical difficulties.
- Multiple submissions cannot be accepted.
- Teams must be registered for national level competition prior to submission of materials.
- The team number must be included as indicated.

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- Materials from non-registered contestants, those missing chapter number and/or projects received after the deadline cannot be accepted.
- No changes can be made to the paper after the date of submission.
- **The research paper must follow the Report format located in the [Style & Reference Manual](#). (Note: no title page is required.)** Header information on the first page of the report should be as follows: Contestant ID Number (Only one Sender's ID – XX-XXXX-XXXX), Harvey Rosen (Recipient's Name), Financial Services Department (Recipient's Department), and Current Date.
- Use each member's full membership number (all 10 digits, i.e., 02-1234-0001) in the header.
- Length of document is limited to seven (7) double-spaced, single-sided, numbered pages with one-inch margins. The works cited page(s) is/are not included in the seven pages; however any graphs, tables or charts included will be included in the seven page limit. **JUDGES WILL NOT READ ADDITIONAL PAGES BEYOND THE SEVEN (7) ALLOWED PAGES.**
- Each research paper must reflect the contestant's own research, writing, and original thinking.
- Props will be allowed, including additional charts, tables, graphics, etc. beginning with the 2015-16 membership year. All materials (props, displays, samples, gifts, etc.), other than the required submission, may *not* be left with judges.
- The research paper and entry form must be keyed/word-processed.
- No changes can be made to the paper after the date of submission.
- Each paper must include word-processed Works Cited page which follows the [Style & Reference Manual](#) format.
- Two (2) copies of the completed research paper and two (2) copies of the [Team Entry Form](#), including signature, must be submitted to the NLC, at both Preliminary and Final Competition.
- The length of the presentation will be no more than seven (7) minutes.
- **The presentation will be stopped at seven (7) minutes and will be followed by judges' questions.**

### Topic

The national debt of the United States is at an all-time high in dollar terms. Experts disagree on the size and importance of the debt. There is a concern that the debt is too high and will damage the future economic structure of the United States and adversely affect individuals and businesses. Research the causes of how the debt has grown and whether it is important for the debt to be controlled. Your research may include but is not limited to:

- What is the national debt and to whom is it owed?
- How does today's debt compare to that of other periods in US history?
- Should the growth of the debt be limited and if so what are some strategies for limiting its growth?
- What are some potential strategies for reducing or eliminating the debt?

**Teams who do not submit an entry that follows this topic will be disqualified.**

### Method of evaluation

Technical Scoring Rubric

Presentation Scoring Rubric

### Length of event

No more than three (3) minutes set-up time

No more than seven (7) minutes presentation time

No more than five (5) minutes of judges' questions

Finals may be included at state and national levels

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**Entries**

Each state is allowed two (2) entries

**Teams in all judged events who wish to receive judges' comments must submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the event judges before judging takes place.**

**Materials submitted for technical judging cannot be returned and will *not* be available at NLC.**

## Economic Research Team (S) (160)

Judge Number \_\_\_\_\_

Team Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Technical Scoring Rubric

Team Violated the Copyright and/or Fair Use Guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Disqualification)	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please stop scoring and provide a brief reason for the disqualification below:		
Team followed topic	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (Disqualification)

Items to Evaluate RESEARCH PAPER	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent	Points Awarded
Team submitted the correct information and in the correct format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Entry form – .pdf format (must be keyed, but does not have to be signed for pre-submission)</li> <li>Research Paper – .pdf format</li> </ul> <p><i>All points or none are awarded by the technical judge.</i></p>				10	
<b>Comprehension of topic</b> Demonstrates understanding of subject matter	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
<b>Organization and expansion of ideas</b> Argument follows logical progression	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
<b>Introduction/Summary</b> Logical argument, evidence to support conclusions, compelling summary	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
<b>Creativity</b> Diverse resources, creative angle on the issue, originality, inventiveness	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
<b>Writing Skills</b> Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, concise language, sentence structure	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
<b>Overall Effectiveness of Research</b>	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
<b>TOTAL TECHNICAL POINTS (130 points maximum)</b>					

Team is required to format research paper according to the [Style & Reference Manual](#).

## Economic Research Team (S) (160)

Judge Number \_\_\_\_\_

Team Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Presentation Scoring Rubric

<b>Evaluation of Oral Presentation</b>	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>
Opening and summary	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Content of presentation	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Effectiveness of presentation: Voice projection, transitions, flow, stage presence, etc.	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Answers to judges' questions	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
<b>TOTAL PRESENTATION POINTS (80 points maximum)</b>					

### Specification Points Rubric

<b>SPECIFICATION POINTS: All points or none per item are awarded by the proctor per contestant, not per judge.</b>		<b>Points Awarded</b>
Set-up lasted no longer than three (3) minutes – 5 points Presentation lasted no longer than seven (7) minutes – 5 points	10	
Documentation submitted at time of presentation: Keyed and signed <a href="#">Team Entry Form</a> (2 copies) and Research Paper (2 copies) <i>Must have copies for preliminaries and finals</i>	10	
Word-processed research paper and Works Cited page followed the <a href="#">Style &amp; Reference Manual</a>	10	
<b>TOTAL SPECIFICATION POINTS (30 points maximum)</b>		

**TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS = 240**

**PRESENTATION WILL BE STOPPED AT SEVEN MINUTES**

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