



CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (530)

—Post-secondary—

REGIONAL – 2016

Judges/Graders: Please double check and verify all scores and answer keys!

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Workplace Skills Assessment Program competition.



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Description

Demonstrate communication skills in arranging, organizing, and effectively presenting information orally without prior knowledge of the topic.

No materials or previously prepared notes will be allowed into the preparation or presentation room with the contestant.

JUDGING PROCEDURE

- The contestant will draw two (2) different business topics and will select either one. The topics may deal with Business Professionals of America, office situations, the business world, etc.
- The contestant will be provided ten (10) minutes to develop the topic. Notes will be made on the note cards provided by the event proctor. No advisor contact will be allowed between the time of receiving the topic and the delivery.
- Contestants will be introduced by contestant number. **Contestants may continue to wear their name badges.**
- Contestants will present before a panel of judges and timekeeper.
- The length of the speech will be no less three (3) minutes and no more than five (5) minutes.
- The contestant will be given warnings via flash cards when there are two (2) minutes remaining and when there is (1) minute remaining during the speaking time.
- The speech will be stopped at five (5) minutes.
- No time is allotted for judges' questions.
- Contestants should be dismissed upon completion of their speech.
- **There can be no ties in the top ten (10) contestants.** It is the responsibility of the judges to break any ties.
- Administrator will fill out ranking sheet prior to dismissing the judges.
- If more than one (1) section is necessary, finalists will be determined by selecting an equal number from each section.
- Give administrator all Judges' Rating Sheets, Judge Evaluation Sheets, and contest materials.
- No audience is allowed in the contest room.

Please double-check and verify all scores!



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TOPICS:

1. The cost of obtaining an education today keeps increasing and increasing. What are some alternatives for you to obtaining college funding so that when you graduate, you will not have enormous amounts of student loans?
2. Today's dress code in business has become very lax. Do you recommend a dress code for business/office employees, or do you prefer they have the freedom to use their creativity in dressing for the workplace?
3. Studies show that employees spend a great deal of time at work on company time using the Internet and social media for personal use. What are your thoughts on this? If necessary, how would you implement a plan of action to deal with this situation?
4. Distinguish between soft skills and hard skills needed for today's business professionals, giving examples of how each plays an important part in the overall success as an employee.
5. "Nomophobia" is the new word given to those who are constantly connected to their cell phones and have the fear of being without their cell phones. Share some etiquette practices concerning cell phone usage in the workplace and in the public.
6. "Cyberbullying" is a word you will hear as you watch the news concerning today's children and technology. Identify this practice, and share suggestions on ways to deal with this situation.
7. With today's technology, all materials, newsletters, catalogs, etc. are being sent electronically to be downloaded. What are your thoughts on receiving electronic copies versus hard copies of documents, giving the advantages and disadvantages?
8. Give your own definition of "ethics"; then explain why it is an important value in today's business world.
9. Studies have shown that the average worker uses up to two hours a day doing personal work while on company time. What are some of your views on this practice? What are your recommendations?
10. "Plagiarism" is on the rise due to the ease of using technology to cheat. How widespread do you think this issue is at your college? What should be the punishment for someone caught cheating in college classes? Cite examples.
11. Technology has provided students with quick access to posting private information about others. What issues are you aware of that have been associated with the improper use of social media?