LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES

OVERVIEW

Applying leadership and 21st century skills, teams prepare a presentation based on a selected challenge that TSA chapter officers might encounter, within a specified, limited amount of time.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) teams of three (3) individuals per state may participate.

TIME LIMITS

A. Presentations must be between three and five (3-5) minutes.

B. Teams will be penalized one (1) point per ten (10) seconds for speaking over five (5) minutes or under three (3) minutes.

C. Time commences when the first team member begins talking and concludes at the end of the presentation.

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required.

PROCEDURE

PRE-CONFERENCE

A. Participants review the TSA Honor Statement for Competitive Events found in the General Rules and listed in the individual competitive event rules.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

A. Team members report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign up for a presentation time.

B. Participants report at the time and place stated in the conference program, five (5) minutes prior to the assigned presentation time with three (3) writing pens (one [1] per team member).

C. At the team's assigned time, one (1) team member draws three (3) cards – each containing one (1) topic – from a box and selects one (1) topic from the three (3) on which the team presents. The cards with the unused topics are returned to the box.

D. After selecting a topic, the first team enters a preparation room separate from the presentation room and is given fifteen (15) minutes to prepare the team presentation. Multiple teams may be in the preparation room together during the rotation period due to conference logistics.

E. Teams may not use their cell phones or any other electronic technology while in the preparation or presentation rooms.

F. The event coordinator introduces each team by team identification number only in the order of the sign-up time.

G. As participants present, the timekeeper visually notifies the team when it has reached the three minutes minimum time by holding up a 5" x 7" notecard with "3:00" displayed.

H. After speaking, the team returns the topic card to the judges.

I. Judges independently score each presentation according to the criteria on the official rating form.

J. A list of twelve (12) semifinalists (in random order) is posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

A. The semifinal round will follow the same procedures as the preliminary round and will use a new blank rubric.

B. Participants report at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign up for a presentation time.

C. Participants report at their assigned time and place for the same procedure used in the preliminary round, but with a different set of topics.

D. Ten (10) finalists are announced during the conference award ceremony.

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Students will work to develop their leadership and 21st century skills in the process of preparing for and participating in this TSA competitive event. The development and application of those skills must be evident in their submission, demonstration, and/or communication pertaining to the entry.

A. No reference may be made concerning the name of the team, the team members, or their school.

B. Each presentation must be the result of the team's own effort.

C. Each team must bring three (3) writing pens (one [1] per team member) to the preparation room.

D. No reference materials or devices may be brought to the preparation room.

E. Any notes for the presentation must be written during the fifteen (15)-minute preparation period.

    1. Each team is provided a maximum of three (3) 3" x 5" blank notecards.

    2. Although teams are permitted to use notes when speaking, it should be noted that deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation.

F. No observers are allowed in the event or preparation rooms during heats, though they may be present during the semifinals.

    1. No talking or gesturing is permitted.

    2. Observers are NOT allowed to enter or leave during a presentation.

    3. THERE IS NO APPLAUSE UNTIL THE PRESENTATION HAS CONCLUDED.

G. Teams are penalized one (1) point per ten (10) seconds for speaking over five (5) minutes or under three (3) minutes.

H. Each member of a team must participate in the presentation.

Sample Topic Questions:

Topics that might be encountered by teams in this event may include but are not limited to:

    1. A newly created school ruling does not allow for school related travel out of state. How will your chapter approach a solution to the problem?

    2. A mandated curriculum severely limits opportunities for students to select and schedule elective courses such as technology education. What can be done to resolve this issue?

    3. Plans to upgrade athletic facilities within the school district severely limit previously approved plans to fund technology education with needed maintenance and equipment expenditures. What will you do in an attempt to resolve this dilemma?

    4. A school policy that pertains to fundraising activity now requires such funds to become part of a general pool to be distributed at the discretion of the school administrator regardless of who or how they were raised. What will be your plan of action to reverse this decision?

    5. Conflict exists within the local chapter related to members who are not engaged within their committee assignments. If the problems are not resolved, the health of the chapter will deteriorate. How do you plan to solve this problem?

    6. It is assumed that our school's technology and engineering program will be strengthened through the support of local businesses and industries. Currently, there is little participation of these groups. How might we change this?

EVALUATION

A. The presentation

Note: Scores are reset for the semifinal round and are not added to the preliminary scores.

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

NOTE

Participants are encouraged to rely on an outline format in presenting their plans, using short sentences and bullet points as appropriate.

TSA HONOR STATEMENT

All work must be created and completed by individual competitors or teams. Plagiarism, the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) software, copyright violation, cheating, and falsification of information are prohibited. Participants may NOT use any generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Gemini, GitHub Copilot, etc.). Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage will not be tolerated. Competitors at any level of TSA competition understand and agree to abide by the TSA Honor Statement.

If it is determined that a student violated the TSA Honor Statement, a rules violation of twenty percent (20%) will be incurred.

STEM INTEGRATION

This event has connections to the STEM areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

LEADERSHIP AND 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

This event provides opportunity for students to build and develop leadership and 21st century skills including but not limited to – Communication, Collaboration/Social Skills, Initiative, Problem Solving/Risk Taking, Critical Thinking, Perseverance/Grit, Creativity, Relationship Building/Teamwork, Dependability/Integrity, and Flexibility/Adaptability

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

This competition has connections to one (1) or more of the career areas featured in the TSA AND CAREERS section of this guide. Careers will vary based on the student's area of interest.

LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES

2026 & 2027 OFFICIAL RATING FORM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Judges: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline in the rating form, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.

Go/No Go Specifications

- Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box.
- If an item is missing, leave the box next to the item blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED.
- If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

☐ A team of three individuals is present
☐ ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

PRESENTATION (100 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Communication of Problem (X1)	It is difficult to understand the problem being communicated.	The problem is communicated in a somewhat organized and/or concise manner.	Communication of the problem is presented in an organized, clear, and concise manner.	
Communication of Solution (X2)	It is difficult to understand the solution being communicated.	The solution is communicated in a somewhat organized and/or concise manner.	Communication of the solution is presented in an organized, clear, and concise manner.	
Impact (X2)	The presentation is unconvincing, uninteresting, and/or lacks compelling and attention-holding ideas.	The presentation is somewhat convincing, with generally interesting ideas.	The presentation is convincing, with compelling and attention-holding ideas.	
Team Participation (X2)	The majority of the delivery is made by one member of the team; the partner(s) are disengaged from the presentation; leadership and/or 21st century skills are not evident.	Team members generally are engaged in the process, though one member may take on more responsibility than the other(s); leadership and/or 21st century skills are somewhat evident.	All team members are equally and actively involved in the presentation; leadership and/or 21st century skills are clearly evident.	
Team Presence (X1)	The team's appearance is unprofessional, sloppy, and inappropriate.	The team's appearance is adequate, appropriate, and professional.	The team's appearance is appropriate, professional, and polished.	
Delivery (X2)	The team is verbose and/or uncertain in its presentation; participants' posture, gestures, and lack of eye contact diminish the presentation.	The team is somewhat well-spoken and distinct in its presentation; participants' posture, gestures, and eye contact are acceptable in the presentation.	The team is well-spoken and distinct in its presentation; participants' posture, gestures, and eye contact result in a polished, natural, and effective presentation.	
			PRESENTATION SUBTOTAL (100 points)	

Record scores in the column spaces below.

TIME DEDUCTIONS

One (1) point per ten (10)-second interval is to be deducted for speaking under the three (3) minutes or over the five (5) minutes allotted for the presentation. Presentation time commences when the first presenter begins speaking.

PRESENTATION DELIVERY TIME

TOTAL TIME DEDUCTION POINTS

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

SUBTOTAL (100 points)

To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary. **TOTAL (100 points)**

Comments:

_____

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

JUDGE

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____

LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

A. Event coordinator

B. Judges:

    1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more, for the first round of presentations

    2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more for semifinalist presentations

C. Timekeepers for recording presentation start/stop times, one (1) per event room

D. Monitors, one (1) per event room

MATERIALS

A. Coordinator's packet containing:

    1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each judge

    2. TSA Event Coordinator Report

B. Speaker's stand/podium

C. Stopwatches for timekeepers, one (1) per heat and two (2) per preparation room

D. One (1) 5" x 7" notecard with "3:00 minutes" displayed (see Procedure F)

E. 3" x 5" blank notecards, for participants to outline their presentation

F. 3" x 5" topic cards – a minimum of five (5) different topics from which to select

G. Tables and chairs in the preparation room

H. Chairs for the audience, for semifinals only

I. Table and chairs for the event coordinator, judges, and timekeeper

RESPONSIBILITIES

AT THE CONFERENCE

A. Attend the mandatory event coordinator's meeting at the designated time and location.

B. Report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet.

C. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough personnel have been scheduled.

D. Inspect the area(s) in which the event is being held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.

E. At least one (1) hour before the event is to begin, meet with judges and assistants to review time limits, procedures, regulations, evaluation, and all other details related to the event. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

F. Ensure the judges have access to the online judging system.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

A. Manage the smooth flow of participants according to these procedures:

    1. After selecting a topic from the three (3) randomly drawn topics, the first team enters a preparation room separate from the presentation delivery room and is given fifteen (15) minutes to prepare a presentation.

    2. Seven (7) minutes after the first team enters the preparation room, the second team enters the preparation room, goes to a different section of the room, and begins its presentation preparation, again with fifteen (15) minutes allowed for preparation; and so on for all the teams.

    3. Each team in turn is allowed to enter the presentation room at seven (7)-minute intervals, thus enabling a constant flow of participants to speak before the evaluators in a timely fashion. (This allows for one [1] minute to enter the presentation room and announce the entry number, up to five [5] minutes for the presentation, and one [1] minute to exit the room.)

    4. The event coordinator introduces each team by registration number only in the order of the sign-up time.

B. After speaking, the team returns the topic card to the judges so that it can be returned to the topics box.

C. Judges independently rate each presentation according to the criteria on the official rating form.

D. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and the CRC manager to determine either:

1. To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round

2. To disqualify the entry

The event coordinator, judges, and CRC manager must initial either of these actions on the rating form.

E. The timekeepers notify judges of any time under three (3) minutes or over five (5) minutes, for which deductions should be made.

F. When teams have finished, judges determine the semifinalists, consulting the timekeeper's record.

G. Create a semifinal sign-up sheet for presentations.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

A. Repeat the preliminary round processes to determine the finalists.

B. Discuss rule violations (e.g. 20% deduction, disqualification) and have all relevant parties initial the rating form.

C. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the area.