Judges' Comments, High School Competitive Events
2011 National TSA Conference, Dallas TX

Animatronics

Overall, entries lacked proper copyright permissions for music. Models should work when they are checked in. Displays were adequate. There was a wet cell power violation.

Biotechnology Design

Teams need to be sure to proofread materials. All items as required in guidelines should be included. Be sure to update all title and cover pages (date, conference location etc). Be sure to include model (required), and follow size guidelines (length/width/height). Try to avoid depending on pre-made videos. Interviews judged on how you present. Be sure to incorporate model into project. Rules violations: size of display.

CAD 2D Architecture and CAD 3D Engineering

Students finished what they could in time allowed. Those who stayed, turned in neat work. Good quality. It was a priority to make sure students understood the concept of drawings. The design proved to be difficult for a lot of participants, but those who stayed did well. Some entries excelled while others lacked, but all had great effort. Some struggled with reading the drawing. Once they figured it out, those who tried were able to finish. The feedback students got was important for them to hear. Most explained some difficulties with time constraints and only got as far as they could. Quality was great. These students took on a challenge and proved why they earned a spot at nationals. Attire was appropriate for most participants. Suggest that all students read the rules for the event, including judging sheet.

Career Comparisons

Many students took time to make a very professional presentation. Citing of sources directly after each career was most logical when sources were at the end of footnotes or some reference was in order. Be very sure to fully document all sources. All careers focused on technical jobs in the specific fields. Pay attention to page requirements and limitations. Stress with students to provide full address on application and to make sure all blanks are filled. Be consistent in formatting. Good research! Students need to speak slowly and clearly and introduce themselves properly.

Digital Video Production

Overall, entries lacked proper copyright permissions for music. Displays were adequate.

Engineering Design

Generally, notebooks were pretty good. However, some notebooks were incomplete and or had pages out of order. Technical drawings are NOT sketches. Check spelling and proofread! Use document/sheet protectors. Several times for "problem solving" the steps were listed rather than explained how they applied to the individual problem. Many times, title of item and/or solution to problem was not clear on display board. Displays should show the purpose of the product at a glance. If, after viewing the

display, the purpose of the prototype isn't apparent, then the display doesn't work. Make sure displays meet the size requirements. Use cutters, not scissors, or at least a ruler. Many models were VERY impressive.

Extemporaneous Presentation
Participants should read less from cards; they need to engage audience more. Students should use the intro-body-conclusion structure. Do not assume judges are tech savvy. Quotes need to be written correctly.

Fashion Design
Very well done for the most part.

Flight Endurance
Planes and notebooks were generally good. Follow the general rules regarding copyright, cell phone use, and dress code.

Future Technology Teacher
Research needs to be cited in the actual work and in reference list. This is a very good and very important event.

Manufacturing Prototype
Product was to be submitted as a sealed package to be unpacked by judges. Submission display should only measure 24" x 24" x 24". Follow directions closely. Many production plans lacked QA, time estimates. Notebooks need to be complete, need to include details on every part of production, drawings need to be more detailed and labeled with proper scale, and descriptions need to include all required parts. Students need to follow rules! Displays were not the proper size and/or already unpackaged. Many entries with great products did not have proper displays or notebooks.

On Demand Video
On Demand Video allows students to be very creative and show technical expertise with video equipment. Most students followed rules closely and presented a notebook that reflected the time they took to do quality work. A few excellent videos were not given the highest points because their notebook needed more work. There was one music citing violation.

Photographic Technology
Most entries complied with the rules and presented requested documentation in a professional form. Displays were excellent, overall presentations good. Violations resulted from not reading rules. Be sure to include all required components. Present pictures, not a technical photo shop lesson. There is Q and A for that. Contestants should take this seriously, i.e. no "candid" snapshots. Proper equipment should be used. Students need to learn to use raw format. Some were well organized and others haphazardly thrown in a pouch. More successful notebooks clearly and easily showed the progression from original to final. For presentations, being prepared and clear

spoken is a major plus. Don't over use effects.

Prepared Presentation
Creating your own template shows creativity. Sound is exciting during presentations. Good tone and attitude result in higher scores. Eye contact is important. Observe time limits. Look professional. Do not play with your hair and jewelry. Posture is important. Try not to sway.

Promotional Graphics
Technical explanation should clearly identify areas on rubric. Documentation MUST include an MLA format works cited page. If all work is original students can still cite TSA rulebook and TSA logo. Clean, crisp designs are typically more impactful than busy designs with a lot of digital manipulation. Students should spend ample time on design concepts and original brainstorming. Attempt should be made to effectively depict the competitive event that was chosen to promote. Common rules violations were altered TSA logos, wrong paper used, wrong size of graphics, and inclusion of school name.

SciVis
Many of the entries were not original work. Those that did their own work were terrific! Most of the violations were copyright issues. Verify that the DVD works before it is submitted.

Structural Engineering
Most common rules violations – structure could not be tested, lamination violation, height too tall or short +/- 1/8 inch. Many of the structures were very well constructed, with excellent craftsmanship.

System Control Technology
Some teams went above and beyond problem solution and showed admirable creativity in their designs. Though not required, they simulated the setup of the facility stated in the problem. Some students gave great presentations. They showed excellent ability to work under pressure. Great contest! More students should be encouraged to be involved.

Technical Sketching and Application
Overall, impressive quality. Focus on line types, as well as dimensions - specifically placement and notations. Problem tested students' knowledge of sketching in detail as far as linetype, drawing type and dimensions. Students need to observe dress code.

Video Game Design
Most games were very good. Students should work on mechanics and document resources. Judges thought the games were "amazing." The quality was high. Know your game and talk about it thoughtfully. Test your game on many different computers.