

# 2023-24 Competitive Events Guidelines

## Exploring Business Issues



Exploring Business Issues provides members with the opportunity to research a business topic and present their findings and solutions. This competitive event consists of a presentation component.

### Event Overview

**Division:** Middle School

**Event Type:** Team of 1, 2 or 3 members

**Event Category:** Presentation

**Event Elements:** Presentation with a Topic

**Presentation Time:** 3-minute set-up time, 7-minute presentation time, 3-minute question & answer time

**NACE Connections:** Career & Self-Development, Communication, Critical Thinking, Leadership, Professionalism, Teamwork, Technology

**Equipment Provided by Competitors:** Technology and presentation items

**Equipment Provided by FBLA:** Table

### 2023-2024 Topic

The traditional work environment is changing as technology provides employees with the ability to work from anywhere, including from their homes. More Americans are working from home, for longer periods of time. Employees are looking to push companies to break down the long-established structures and policies that traditionally have influenced workdays.

Include answers to the following questions during your presentation:

- How does this trend positively affect businesses?
- How does this trend negatively affect businesses?
- Examples of trends to discuss include collaboration, environmental impact, productivity, etc. (additional points/topics can be added)

### State

Competitors will have a 1-minute set-up time. Check the Call to Conference for any other specific competitive events information and deadlines.

### National

#### *Policy and Procedures Manual*

- Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events Policy & Procedures Manual, found on the Competitive Events page on [www.fbla.org](http://www.fbla.org).

#### *Eligibility*

- FBLA membership dues are paid by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- Members may compete in an event at NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top ten of that event at NLC. If a member places in the top ten of an event at NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event.

# 2023-24 Competitive Events Guidelines



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- Members must be registered for the NLC and pay the national conference registration fee in order to participate in competitive events.
- Members must stay in an official FBLA hotel in order to compete.
- Each state may submit four entries.
- Each competitor can only compete in one individual/team event and one chapter event (Annual Chapter Activities Presentation, Community Service Presentation).
- Only competitors are allowed to plan, research, prepare, and set up their presentations.
- Each competitor must compete in all parts of an event for award eligibility.
- All members of a team must consist of individuals from the same chapter.
- If competitors are late for a presentation time, they will be allowed to compete until such time that results are finalized, or the accommodation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event. Competitive events start in the morning before the Opening Session of NLC.

### *Recognition*

- The number of competitors will determine the number of winners. The maximum number of winners for each competitive event is 10.

### *Event Administration*

- This event has two parts: preliminary presentation and final presentation
- Preliminary Presentation Information
  - **Equipment Set-up Time:** 3 minutes
  - **Presentation Time:** 7 minutes (one-minute warning)
  - **Question & Answer Time:** 3 minutes
  - **Internet Access:** Not provided
  - The presentation is judged at the NLC. Preliminary presentations are not open to conference attendees. The presentation will take place in a large, open area, with a booth size of approximately 12' x 12'.
  - Competitors/teams are randomly assigned to sections.
  - Competitors present directly from a laptop/device. Screens and projectors are not allowed for use, and competitors are not allowed to bring their own. Power will not be available.
  - Competitors can present with and bring any of the following technology into the presentation as long as it fits on a small table or is held by the competitors:
    - Laptop
    - Tablet
    - Mobile phone
    - External monitor that is approximately the size of a laptop monitor
  - Materials, visual aids, and samples related to the project may be used during the presentation; however, no items may be left with the judges or audience.
  - When the equipment set-up time has elapsed, the timer will automatically start the presentation time.
  - If performing as a team, all team members are expected to actively participate in the presentation.

# 2023-24 Competitive Events Guidelines



## Exploring Business Issues

- No animals (except authorized service animals) will be allowed for use in any competitive event.
- Facts and data must be cited and secured from quality sources.
  
- Final Presentation Information
  - The above presentation guidelines will be in effect for the final presentation.
  - An equal number of competitors/teams from each section in the preliminary round will advance to the final round. When there are more than five sections of preliminary presentations for an event, two competitors/teams from each section will advance to the final round.

### *Scoring*

- The preliminary presentation score will determine the finalists.
- The final presentation score will determine the winners.
- Judges must break ties. All judges' decisions are final.

### *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*

- FBLA meets the criteria specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act for all competitors with accommodations submitted through the conference registration system by the registration deadline.

### *Recording of Presentations*

- No unauthorized audio or video recording devices will be allowed in any competitive event.
- Competitors in the events should be aware FBLA reserves the right to record any presentation for use in study or training materials.

### *Penalty Points*

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Competitive Event Guidelines or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to arrive for their presentation time.

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### Exploring Business Issues Presentation Rating Sheet

Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
<b>Content</b>					
<b>Demonstrates understanding of the topic</b>	<i>No description or topic synopsis provided; no problems defined</i>	<i>Describes and provides topic synopsis OR defines the problem(s)</i>	<i>Describes and provides topic synopsis AND defines the problem(s)</i>	<i>Demonstrates expertise of topic synopsis AND definition of the problem(s)</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<b>Alternative solutions are recognized with pros and cons stated and evaluated</b>	<i>No alternatives identified</i>	<i>Alternative(s) given but pro(s) and/or con(s) are not analyzed</i>	<i>At least two alternatives given, and pro(s) and con(s) are analyzed</i>	<i>Multiple alternatives given and multiple pros and cons analyzed for each</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<b>Provides an effective and logical recommendation(s)</b>	<i>Fails to provide meaningful recommendations</i>	<i>Presents recommendations for behavior but lacks thorough exploration of advantages and disadvantages</i>	<i>Offers solid recommendations, but may not fully address all pros and cons</i>	<i>Provides well-reasoned and supported suggestions. Balances advantages and disadvantages effectively</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<b>Substantiates and cites sources used while conducting research</b>	<i>Sources are not cited</i>	<i>Sources/References are seldom cited to support statements</i>	<i>Professionally legitimate sources &amp; resources that support statements are generally present</i>	<i>Compelling evidence from professionally legitimate sources &amp; resources is given to support statements</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
<b>Uses technology effectively to illustrate the research on the topic</b>	<i>No use of technology</i>	<i>Demonstrates limited use of technology</i>	<i>Demonstrates good use of technology</i>	<i>Demonstrates excellent use of technology with a consistent theme in graphics &amp; proper formatting</i>	
	0 points	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 points	
<b>Presentation Delivery</b>					
<b>Statements are well-organized and clearly stated</b>	<i>Competitor(s) did not appear prepared</i>	<i>Competitor(s) were prepared, but flow was not logical</i>	<i>Presentation flowed in logical sequence</i>	<i>Presentation flowed in a logical sequence; statements were well organized</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
<b>Demonstrates self-confidence, poise, assertiveness, and good voice projection</b>	<i>Competitor(s) did not demonstrate self-confidence</i>	<i>Competitor(s) demonstrated self-confidence and poise</i>	<i>Competitor(s) demonstrated self-confidence, poise, and good voice projection</i>	<i>Competitor(s) demonstrated self-confidence, poise, good voice projection, and assertiveness</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
<b>Demonstrates the ability to effectively answer questions</b>	<i>Unable to answer questions</i>	<i>Does not completely answer questions</i>	<i>Completely answers questions</i>	<i>Interacted with the judges in the process of completely answering questions</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
<b>Staff Only: Penalty Points (5 points for dress code penalty and/or 5 points for late arrival penalty)</b>					
<b>Presentation Total (100 points)</b>					
Name(s):					
School:					
Judge Signature:					Date:
Comments:					