

2026–2027 Competitive Events

Collegiate Topics



The topics listed below are intended to provide the scenario or context for each applicable competitive event. For complete event requirements, deliverables, technical specifications, presentation expectations, and judging criteria, refer to the Competitive Events Guidelines and Rating Sheets.

Business Ethics

Stakeholder Trust During a Food Safety Crisis

Food safety incidents can have significant consequences for customers, employees, suppliers, investors, regulators, and the communities organizations serve. These situations require leaders to make ethical decisions while responding quickly, communicating transparently, protecting public health, and managing organizational risk.

Select a real food manufacturer, restaurant, grocery retailer, agricultural business, or other organization within the food industry that has experienced a food safety crisis. Evaluate the ethical issues surrounding the situation, the factors that contributed to the crisis, and the effectiveness of the organization's response.

Develop a comprehensive strategy that addresses stakeholder concerns, strengthens organizational accountability, rebuilds public trust, and supports long-term organizational success. Support your analysis and recommendations with research, ethical principles, and professional perspectives.

How should organizations balance public safety, stakeholder interests, and organizational responsibilities when responding to a food safety crisis?

Business Presentation

Financial Wellness for Professionals: Building a Strong Financial Future

Many professionals begin their careers while balancing competing financial responsibilities, including budgeting, student loans, housing expenses, insurance, retirement savings, and other long-term financial goals. Developing a strong financial strategy early in adulthood can improve financial confidence and long-term financial well-being.

Acting as a financial consultant, develop a presentation that provides recommendations to help recent college graduates or early-career professionals establish a strong financial foundation. Analyze common financial challenges, identify opportunities to improve financial wellness, and recommend practical strategies that support both short-term financial stability and long-term financial success.

How can thoughtful financial planning early in a career create long-term financial security and success?

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Emerging Business Issues

The Four-Day Workweek: Transforming the Future of Work

Examine the potential impact of adopting a four-day work week across a variety of industries and organizations. Consider how reduced work schedules may affect employee well-being, organizational productivity, customer service, operational costs, talent recruitment and retention, and overall business performance.

Prepare to argue both the affirmative and negative sides, evaluating whether a four-day workweek is a sustainable long-term strategy for businesses, employees, and the economy.

Future Business Facilitator

Where Leaders Begin: Facilitating Leadership Development

Organizations rely on effective leadership to drive performance, navigate change, strengthen teams, and achieve strategic goals. Developing leadership skills requires more than training—it requires meaningful learning experiences that help individuals apply concepts in real-world situations.

Design and facilitate a professional learning session focused on a leadership topic of your choice for employees, emerging leaders, managers, or organizational teams. Your session should help participants strengthen their leadership capabilities and apply what they learn to professional challenges and workplace responsibilities.

How can effective facilitation transform leadership concepts into meaningful learning experiences that improve individual and organizational performance?

Public Speaking

The Power of Community Engagement in Business and Leadership

In today's interconnected world, how can individuals and organizations create meaningful change through community service and local involvement while strengthening leadership, building relationships, and making a lasting impact?