

Extemporaneous Writing- Health Policy

Event Category: Leadership.....

Eligible Divisions: Secondary & Postsecondary/ Collegiate	Round One: Written policy letter in 60 minutes	Digital Upload: YES, policy letter written during event *review details below for unique details
Solo Event: 1 competitor	Competitor Must Provide: Electronic device on battery power, internet accessibility, USB port	



New for 2026-2027

Editorial changes have been made.

TEXAS HOSA

Make sure to read TEXAS General Rules and Regulations for updated “Electronic Device Policies”

This event will be run using the ILC guidelines with the modifications stated below for use in both Area and State Texas competitions

- **DIFFERENCES IN EVENT PROCESS IN TEXAS FROM THE ILC EVENT GUIDELINES**
 - Competitors will report with an electronic device containing a USB port that operates on battery power. Electricity is NOT provided and CANNOT be used.
 - Devices without a USB port (such as cloud-based writing media or devices such as Chromebooks) will not be able to save the essay to a HOSA flash drive, therefore, cannot be used.
 - Internet use is NOT provided at the area conferences and is not allowed due to the difficulty of obtaining reliable internet connections at the various high schools, therefore, a typing program of the competitor’s choosing that can be accessed without internet use must be installed on the computer (Microsoft Word, Text, etc.)
 - Students who come to competition without an appropriate device will be allowed to “handwrite” their letter: however no additional time or resources will be allowed. In addition students will receive a 15 point deduction for not following the Texas electronic device requirement.
 - Spell-check, grammar check, and Thesaurus may be used if available on computer, and can be accessed without internet use.
 - Sixty (60) minutes are given to write the essay.
- At the end of 60 minutes, competitors will be given five (5) additional minutes to save the essay to a flash drive provided by Texas HOSA, place the flash drive in the student labeled envelope, and turned into event personnel.
- Flash drives with saved essays will be sealed and submitted in a labeled envelope provided by Texas HOSA.
- Essays will be printed and submitted to the judges.

Event Summary

Extemporaneous Writing—Health Policy allows HOSA members to gain the knowledge and skills to write an effective letter to a policymaker. On the day of the competition, competitors will receive a secret topic that outlines a relevant health policy or issue with supporting details. Competitors will draft their letters in 60 minutes to submit to judges. This event aims to inspire members to learn more about current health policy and feel empowered to make a difference by voicing their opinions on important health topics to applicable decision-makers to effect change.

General Event Information

General Rules	Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the General Rules and Regulations .
Dress Code	Proper business attire or official HOSA uniform. Bonus points will be awarded for proper dress .
Competitors Must Provide	• Photo ID • The electronic device on battery power, containing a typing program of the competitor's choosing, USB port, AND internet accessibility. HOSA Conference Staff will provide equipment and supplies listed in Appendix I.

ROUND ONE- Written Policy Letter

The Letter Details	1. Competitors will write a letter to an assigned health policymaker in support or opposition of a given secret topic. The secret topic will be distributed to competitors at the beginning of the competition. 2. The topic shall relate to a current health policy issue. All competitors shall write on the same topic. The topic is a secret topic that is not disclosed until the event begins. Professional ethics demand that competitors DO NOT discuss or reveal the secret topic for ANY event until after the event has concluded. Violation of the ethics rules will be severely penalized per the GRRs. 3. The letter will include the key items below. Competitors must memorize these key points to include in their letters. a. Name and address of addressee (this information will be listed in the secret topic) b. Appropriate salutation to the addressee c. Subject line of the letter d. Constituent (competitor who is writing the letter) with mailing address and email so you may be contacted with a response e. Statement of why you support or oppose the given bill/health policy issue. Include three points that support your position. f. Include reasoning and evidence about why this issue is important to you and/or how it affects you, your family, or members of the community g. A firm conclusion restating your position AND indicating you would like a response back h. At the bottom of the letter, include the competitor's name, HOSA division, chapter number, school name, and Chartered Association 4. No plagiarism is allowed, and work must be done by the competitors per the GRRs.
Competitive Process	5. Competitors will be given sixty (60) minutes to write the letter. 6. A laptop or tablet will be brought to the event by the competitor; a. On battery power, b. Containing a typing program (Microsoft Word, Text, Google Docs, etc.) c. With internet accessibility, d. With a USB port. 7. Competitors are encouraged to bring personal devices, so firewalls on school-issued devices do not create barriers for competitors. 8. Electricity is NOT provided and CANNOT be used. Electronic devices must operate on battery power. 9. Competitors will type their letters into the typing program of their choice (Microsoft Word, Text, Google Docs, etc.). 10. No printed materials or prepared notes are allowed at the event location.

Submission Process Used at ILC	11. At the end of sixty (60) minutes, competitors will be given five (5) additional minutes to submit their letters. 12. The submission process at ILC used is the HOSA Digital Upload System. 13. Upon registering for ILC, competitors in this event will receive an email with their unique digital upload link. They will receive this email a second time approximately five days prior to the ILC competition. Competitors need to save the unique digital upload link that they received by email. 14. At ILC, upon completion of the typed letter, competitors will be directed to upload their letters using their unique upload link provided via email. 15. As a backup, HOSA event staff will have a master list of all upload links to provide to a competitor should they not have their email. 16. Internet is used for this event at ILC - Competitors are only allowed on the selected website provided by HOSA. They are NOT allowed to search the Internet for content to help write their letters. The letters will be developed with evidence and ideas the competitor can speak to, either from memory/personal experience, and/or from facts provided in the secret topic. The Internet will NOT be used to research data to support the letter development, and competitors will not be scored on the accuracy of the facts included. 17. Chartered Associations will determine the best submission process for all regional and/or state level conferences. Other submission options may include: a. Competitors save their letters on a USB drive provided by HOSA. b. Competitors could submit their letter via a digital form, such as Google or Wufoo. c. Or any other method deemed appropriate by HOSA event staff. d. Please check with your local advisor to determine the process for submitting the letter during the competition.
Time Remaining Announcements	18. There will be an announcement when 30 minutes, 5 minutes, and 1 minute remain of the 60-minute letter-writing portion of the event. An additional five minutes will be given to submit the letter. The timekeeper will stop competitors once five extra minutes have passed, and they will be excused. State and ILC event staff can adjust this 5-minute time frame to account for the submission process used.
Sample Topic:	<i>You are a HOSA student in Montana. The current legislative session is hearing HB-300: Revise Education Laws Related to Career and Technology Student Organizations.</i> <i>HB-300 expands funding for seven CTSOs (Career and Technology Student Organizations) in the state, including HOSA. The bill would give the CTSOs in the state a total of \$500,000. Proponents of the bill argue that the funding is vital to assisting CTSOs in their work with students and that investing in education is always a good decision. Opponents of the bill argue that evidence is lacking for the effectiveness of CTSOs and that the money would be better spent and managed elsewhere.</i> <i>You are to write a letter of support or opposition to HB-300 addressed to:</i> <i>Senator Marie Wilson</i> <i>PO Box 1234</i> <i>Cricket, MT, 55555</i>

Final Scoring

In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker will be determined by the areas on the rating sheet section(s) with the highest point value in descending order.

Future Opportunities

The HOSA Scholarship program has funding available for HOSA members who have an interest in various health careers! The application process begins January 1, 2027, and can be found here: <https://hosa.org/scholarships/>.

Graduating from high school or completing your postsecondary/collegiate program does not mean your HOSA journey has to end. As a HOSA member, you are eligible to become a HOSA Lifetime Alumni Member- a free and valuable opportunity to remain connected, give back, and help to shape the future of the organization. Learn more and sign up at hosa.org/alumni.

Extemporaneous Writing- Health Policy

Written Policy Letter Rubric

Competitor #: _____ Division: _____ SS _____ PS/C _____ Judge's Signature: _____

A. Adherence to Guidelines	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Name, Address, and appropriate salutation of addressee	The letter contains: 1. name of addressee 2. Address 3. appropriate salutation	N/A	The letter contains 2 of the 3 items.	N/A	The letter contains 0-1 of the 3 items.	
2. Subject Line of the letter	Subject line is included.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Subject line is not included.	
3. Identification of Constituent	Constituent is identified with mailing and email address	N/A	N/A	N/A	Constituent is not identified and/or information missing	
4. Competitor Identifying Information	Competitor provides name, HOSA division, chapter #, school name & chartered association	N/A	Competitor included 3 of the 5 identifying information.	N/A	Competitor only provided 1-2 of the identifying information, or none at all.	
B. Content	EXCELLENT 15 points	GOOD 12 points	AVERAGE 9 points	FAIR 6 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Statement of Support or Opposition to Given Bill/ Health Policy	The statement of support or opposition catches the reader's attention, provides background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition catches the reader's attention, provides some background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition fails to catch the reader's attention, provides some background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition does not catch the reader's attention, provides little background on the topic, and fails to be the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition does not catch the reader's attention, provides no background on the topic, and fails to be the central point of the letter.	
2. Supporting Point #1	Writing includes strong evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/ concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that primarily supports or refutes the topic/ main idea. It uses sensory /concrete words and details supporting the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/ details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	
3. Supporting Point #2	Writing includes vital evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/ concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that primarily supports or refutes the topic/main idea. It uses sensory/ concrete words and details supporting the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	
4. Supporting Point #3	Writing includes vital evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/ concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that primarily supports or refutes the topic/ main idea. It uses sensory/ concrete words and details supporting the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/ details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/ main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/ details that support the competitor's view.	

B. Content	EXCELLENT 15 points	GOOD 12 points	AVERAGE 9 points	FAIR 6 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
5. Personal Story	The writer demonstrates command of the topic throughout, and discusses the topic and its significance to the competitor and/or community. The writer uses the topic as a path for the letter, and offers explanations and insights that enhance the understanding of the topic.	Mentions the topic and its significance to competitors and/or the community. Uses the topic as a path for the letter. Competitor offers explanations and insights that link back to the topic.	Mention the topic and briefly explain its significance to competitors and/or the community.	The paper briefly mentions the topic but does not provide any analysis or reasoning behind its significance to the competitor and/or community.	Did not include much in the way of significance to the competitor and/or community.	
C. Conclusion	EXCELLENT 10 points	GOOD 8 points	AVERAGE 6 points	FAIR 4 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Conclusion	The conclusion is concise and summarizes supporting points; it restates the competitor's position in a new way. The judge is satisfied with the conclusion and is left with something to think about.	The conclusion is mostly concise and summarizes the supporting points. The judge is indifferent to the letter's conclusion.	The conclusion summarizes supporting points: it does not restate the competitor's position.	The conclusion may be attempted but does not summarize or restate the competitor's position.	No conclusion is apparent in the letter.	
C. Conclusion	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
2. Indication of Request for Response	The competitor clearly requests a response	N/A	N/A	N/A	Request for a response is missing.	
D. Organization	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Grammar	Zero (0) grammatical errors were found in this letter.	1-2 grammatical errors were found in this letter. They do not detract from the general flow of the letter.	3-4 errors were found in the letter, detracting from the overall flow of the letter.	There are 5-6 grammatical errors present, which detract from the meaning and flow of the letter.	More than 6 errors were found. The errors are glaring, and the letter is difficult to read.	
2. Spelling & Punctuation	Zero (0) errors in spelling and punctuation were found in this letter.	1-2 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this letter.	3-4 errors in spelling or punctuation in this letter.	5-6 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this letter.	6 or more errors in spelling or punctuation were documented within the letter.	
Total Points (120):						