OVERVIEW

Participants will write a research-based essay using two (2) or more sources provided on-site, that makes insightful connections about a current technological topic.

ELIGIBILITY

Participants are limited to three (3) individuals per state.

TIME LIMITS

A. The allotted time to complete the essay is ninety (90) minutes

B. Semifinalists will participate in a LEAP interview that will last a maximum of five (5) minutes.

LEAP LEADERSHIP RESUME/INTERVIEW

An Individual LEAP Leadership Resume is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in. Semifinalists will respond to interview questions related to their submitted LEAP Resume for a maximum of five (5) minutes.

ATTIRE

Competition attire, as described in the National TSA Dress Code section of this guide, is required for this event.

PROCEDURE

A. Participants report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program.

B. Participants must submit a LEAP Leadership Resume prior to receiving the writing prompt.

C. Participants are required to prepare essays using a laptop computer provided by participants.

D. Essays will be submitted in PDF format on a USB flash drive, provided by the participant.

☑ This event requires synthesis of information to produce a coherent and well-developed essay utilizing sources provided on site.

E. Participants will be provided with a prompt and two (2) or more articles on a current technological topic.

F. Time begins after participants have received all materials.

G. After ninety (90) minutes, participants stop writing. Each participant turns in an essay not exceeding three (3) typed pages, and one (1) works-cited page.

H. Entries are reviewed by evaluators. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time.

I. Semifinalists will be determined and posted by the CRC.

J. Semifinalist teams will report at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign up for a semifinalist LEAP interview.

K. The LEAP interview will last a maximum of five (5) minutes.

L. Ten (10) finalists will be announced at the awards ceremony.

It is essential that students and advisors routinely check the TSA website (www.tsaweb.org) for updated information about TSA general rules and competitive events. This information is found on the website under Competitions/Updates. When students participate in any TSA competitive event, they are responsible for knowing of updates, changes, or clarification related to that event.

REGULATIONS

A. Only participants are allowed in the event area. Should a participant finish before the allotted time expires, the participant is allowed to leave quietly but may not reenter the event room.

B. Participants are responsible for bringing a fully-charged laptop computer and a flash drive to the event room **Participants who report without these items will not be permitted to compete.**

C. **No power sources will be provided for participants.** The laptop computer must be capable of being used for the entire ninety (90)-minute time frame of the event, without needing a power source.

D. Each entry must have the participant identification number only noted and centered directly below the title of the essay.

E. The length of the essay is limited to three (3) typed pages, single-spaced. The list of references is not included in the three (3) pages.

F. All essays must adhere to the following criteria:
   1. 11pt Arial or Calibri font

☑ Read the General Rules and Regulations section in the front of this guide for information that applies to all of TSA's competitive events.

2. One inch (1") margins on all sides

3. Single (normal) spacing

G. With the essay, participants must turn in a one (1)-page typed bibliography, using proper MLA bibliography format.

H. Essays must be submitted with a bibliography and in PDF format. Entries not following these guidelines will not be scored.

I. All essays become the property of TSA, Inc. and will not be returned.

J. LEAP Leadership Resume (see Forms Appendix or TSA website)/Interview — Students document, in the LEAP leadership resume (see resume template), the leadership skills that they have developed and demonstrated while working on this event. Semifinalists will respond to questions about the content of their resume as part of their LEAP interview. The LEAP Leadership Resume/Interview guidelines and other resources can be found on the TSA website.

EVALUATION

Entries will be evaluated according to the criteria listed on the official rating form, including LEAP requirements. Please refer to the official rating form for more information.

STEM INTEGRATION

This event aligns with the STEM educational standards noted below. Please refer to the STEM Integration section of this guide for more information.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

TSA AND CAREERS

This competition connects to one or more of the career areas featured in the TSA AND CAREERS section of this guide. Use *The Career Clusters* chart and the *TSA Competitions and The Career Clusters* grid as resources for information about careers.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

Economist
Engineer
Research technician
Scientist
Technical writer

ESSAYS ON TECHNOLOGY
EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

A. Event coordinator

B. Evaluators, two (2) or more for the first reading

C. Evaluators, two (2) or more for the reading of the top-rated twenty (20) essays

D. Timekeeper

MATERIALS

A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
   1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each evaluator
   2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
   3. List of evaluators/assistants
   4. Pre-populated flash drives for evaluators
   5. Stopwatch
   6. Results envelope
   7. Envelope for LEAP Leadership Resumes
   8. LEAP Interview Judging Protocol

B. Tables and chairs for evaluators

C. Tables and chairs for participants

D. Securable room (preferable) for the duration of the event

E. Two (2) or more articles on a current technological topic; one (1) set per participant and one (1) set per judge

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Upon arrival at the conference, report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough evaluators/assistants have been scheduled.

B. Inspect the area or room 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.

C. One (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, meet with evaluators/assistants to review time limits, procedures, and

regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

D. For participants who violate the rules, the decision either to deduct 20% of the total possible points or to disqualify the entry must be discussed and verified with the evaluators, event coordinator, and a CRC manager.

E. Begin the event at the scheduled time by closing the doors, checking the coordinator's report, and collecting LEAP Leadership Resumes. All participants should be in the room at this time. Participants not present may be disqualified. In order to compete, participants must be on the coordinator's report or must have approval of the CRC. An individual who is not on the coordinator's report is permitted to participate, but the coordinator MUST confirm the individual's eligibility. If it is found that the individual is not registered for the event, the individual is disqualified. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the lateness is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

F. Instruct participants that they must have their participant ID number only centered directly below the title of the essay. No other identifying information can be included.

G. Remind the participants to leave a one inch (1") margin on all sides of the essay.

H. Remind participants to single space their work using an 11pt Arial or Calibri font and to submit only three (3) essay pages, plus a single page for references.

I. Remind participants that they must save their work in PDF format on a flash drive.

J. Distribute both the prompt and the articles on a current technological topic to all participants. The prompt will indicate the topic and instructions for composing an essay related to the articles.

K. Instruct participants that those who finish before time is called must submit their work (on the flash drive) and leave quietly.

L. Five (5) minutes before the ninety (90) minutes is up, make an announcement that participants have five (5) minutes to complete their essays. Exactly ninety (90) minutes after beginning, call time and collect the flash drives from participants.

M. Supervise and assist the evaluators during the reading of the essays. Each entry must be read and evaluated independently.

N. Semifinalists will be determined and posted by the CRC.

O. Meet with semifinalists at the time and place stated in the conference program to allow them to sign up for a semifinalist LEAP interview time.

P. Inspect the area in which the semifinalist LEAP interviews are to take place. Ensure that there is a table and seating for participants and evaluators.

Q. Meet with semifinalist evaluators to review the LEAP Judging Protocol. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the semifinalist presentations begin.

R. Conduct semifinalist LEAP interviews. Interviews should be a maximum of five (5) minutes in length.

S. Review and submit the finalist results and all items/forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

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

Participant/Team ID# _____

ESSAYS ON TECHNOLOGY

2017 & 2018 OFFICIAL RATING FORM	HIGH SCHOOL

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 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.

☐ **The participant has a fully charged laptop computer.**

☐ **The participant has a flash drive.**

☐ **The entry is submitted in PDF format with a bibliography.**

☐ **Completed LEAP Leadership Resume is present.**

☐ **ENTRY NOT EVALUATED**

Record scores in the column spaces below.

Essay (100 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points	
Evaluators: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline, 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.				
Thesis (X1)	The thesis is not a complete thought and/or is inappropriate for the essay; the title and thesis do not correlate with one another, or the thesis lacks creativity.	The thesis is evident and the idea behind it is somewhat concise and fairly creative; the essay title correlates with the thesis.	The thesis is well structured, concise, positioned appropriately, and creative; the essay title is authentic and correlates well with the thesis.	
Introduction paragraph (X1)	The introduction explains the background but may lack detail; it does not help to establish the writer's position.	The introduction creates interest and generally states the position.	A well-developed introduction engages the reader and creates interest; the introduction states a significant and compelling position.	
Supporting paragraphs (X2)	Paragraphs lack main points to support the thesis, and/or there is a poor development of ideas.	Paragraphs include main points that are related to the thesis, with adequate supporting details and a fairly well developed narrative.	Paragraphs provide well-developed main points directly related to the thesis; supporting examples are concrete and detailed; the narrative presents a consistent and effective point of view.	
Concluding paragraph (X1)	The conclusion is recognizable but it does not effectively summarize the topic.	The conclusion generally summarizes the topic and restates the thesis.	The conclusion wraps up the point of the essay and creatively restates the thesis.	
Organization (X1)	There is no discernible organization; transitions are not present.	A logical progression of ideas is evident; transitions are present throughout the essay.	The essay conveys a logical progression of ideas, with a clear structure that enhances the thesis; transitions are mature and graceful.	
Style (X1)	The style is confusing and hard to follow; it contains fragments and/or run-on sentences; word choice is simple, ordinary, and/or uncompelling.	The style is clear, sentences are somewhat expressive, and word choice is appropriate.	The style is smooth, skillful and coherent; sentences are strong and expressive, with varied structure; word choice is appropriate and mature.	

Essay (continued) (100 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points	
Mechanics (X1)	The essays contains distracting errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are generally correct, with few errors.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are correct with no errors evident.	
Research base (X1)	The essay lacks an adequate research base and/or uses minimal support from articles.	The research base is adequate, with support from articles.	The essay conveys a detailed research base that includes comprehensive support from articles.	
Works cited (X1)	References are not used effectively, and/or they are not cited using proper MLA format.	Most sources cited are used effectively and help to support the essay topic.	The essay incorporates multiple sources that are credible, appropriate, and support the topic.	
			SUBTOTAL (100 points)	

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

Indicate the rule violated: _____

Semifinalist LEAP Interview (20 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points	
LEAP Leadership Resume/Interview See Regulation J and instructions on TSA website (X2)	The individual's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and/or are unconvincing. Few, if any, attempts are made to identify and/or incorporate the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria.	The individual's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and/or are generally convincing. Identification and/or incorporation of the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria is adequate.	The individual's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing. Identification and/or incorporation of the LEAP Be. Know. Do. criteria is excellent.	
			SUBTOTAL (20 points)	

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

Indicate the rule violated: _____

(To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary.   **TOTAL (120 points)**

Comments:

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

Evaluator

Printed name: _____   Signature: _____