



JUDGING INFORMATION PACKET

COMPETITIVE EVENTS PROGRAM

INDEPENDENT BUSINESS PLAN

Thank you for agreeing to share your time and knowledge with DECA members at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC)!

As a judge you will sit across the table from DECA's most talented members and evaluate their knowledge and skills they've developed all year. You provide the 'real world' expertise that sets our industry-validated competitive events program apart as you determine who will advance to finals or be named an international finalist.

ICDC would not be possible without your commitment. On behalf of all DECA students and staff, thank you for serving as a competitive events judge!



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EVENTS

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

DECA's Competitive Events Program is aligned to industry-validated National Curriculum Standards in the career clusters of marketing, business management and administration, finance and hospitality and tourism. The DECA members you will be judging have qualified from a series of competitions and represent the top performers from their state/province.

EVENT OVERVIEW

- The event you have agreed to judge includes two major parts: a written entry and an oral presentation.
- You have been assigned to judge one section of this event.
- In your section, you will judge 16 to 20 participant teams (1 to 3 participants), who are only competing against each other in the preliminary competition. The top two performing teams from each section, after combining the written entry (60 points maximum) and oral presentation (40 points maximum) score, will advance to final competition.
- As a judge, you will evaluate the participant teams' written entry and presentation using the provided rubric.

YOUR ROLE AS A JUDGE

- Carefully review the event guidelines and evaluation form to understand your characterization as a judge.
- During the first part of the day, you will evaluate the written entries. Use pencil to complete the scantron form, recording the score in the box and blackening the correct score. You may need to adjust scores as you establish clear expectations for performance. The event director will provide you with an estimated amount of time to spend on each written entry.
- Once you begin to see participant teams, after introductions, begin the 15-minute presentation. Allow the participant teams to complete their presentation without interruption, unless you are asked to respond. Each participant must take part in the presentation.
- Following the oral presentation and if time remains, you may ask questions based on your notes or on the written entry itself. Please ask the same questions to all participants for consistency in scoring.
- Materials appropriate for the situation may be handed to you or left with you by the participants. Items of monetary value may be handed to but may not be left with the judges. Items such as flyers, brochures, pamphlets and business cards may be handed to or left with the judge. No food or drinks allowed.
- At the conclusion of the presentation, thank the participant(s). Please do not provide any feedback to the participant(s).
- Use a pencil to complete the scantron form, recording the score in the box and blackening the correct score. You may need to adjust scores as you establish clear expectations for performance.
- If you have any questions, please consult your event director.
- All participants, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic status, should be treated equally and respectfully.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Perform a consistent judge characterization and maintain the same expectations of participant teams throughout to ensure an equitable competitive environment.
- Create a positive learning environment for participants.
- To assist with the determination of winners, please avoid giving ties.
- Participants scoring a combined total score of 70% or better on the competitive event components will earn a Certificate of Excellence.



1 to 3
PARTICIPANTS



30
PAGES
ALLOWED



15
PRESENTATION
TIME

*Thank you for
volunteering to evaluate
our emerging leaders and
entrepreneurs.*



INDEPENDENT BUSINESS PLAN

INDEPENDENT BUSINESS PLAN EIB

The **Independent Business Plan** involves the development of a comprehensive proposal to start a new business. Any type of business may be used.

Participants in the Independent Business Plan will:

- prepare a written proposal for a new business
- request financing for the proposal in a role-playing interview with a bank or venture capital official

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EVENT OVERVIEW

- This event consists of two major parts: the **written document** and the **oral presentation**. The written document will account for 60 points, and the oral presentation will account for the remaining 40 of the total 100 points.
- Each event entry will be composed of **one to three members** of a DECA chapter. All participants must present the project to the judge. All participants present must respond to questions.
- The body of the written entry must be limited to **30 numbered pages**, including the appendix (if an appendix is attached), but excluding the title page and the table of contents.
- The **Written Event Statement of Assurances and Academic Integrity** must be signed and submitted with the entry. Do not include it in the page numbering.
- The participants may bring all visual aids to the event briefing. Only approved visual aids may be used during the presentation.
- The oral presentation may be a maximum **15 minutes** in length, including time for the judge's questions.
- The judge will evaluate the presentation, focusing on the effectiveness of public speaking and presentation skills and how well the participants respond to questions that the judge may ask during the presentation.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS DEVELOPED

Participants will demonstrate knowledge and skills needed to address the components of the project as described in the content outline and evaluation forms.

Participants will also develop many 21st Century Skills, in the following categories, desired by today's employers:

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Information Literacy
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Leadership and Responsibility
- Media Literacy
- Productivity and Accountability
- Social and Cross-cultural Skills

Many Common Core Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts & Literacy are supported by participation in DECA's competitive events.

Crosswalks that show which 21st Century Skills are developed and which common core standards are supported by participating in each competitive event are available at deca.org.

WRITTEN ENTRY GUIDELINES

The written entry must follow these specifications. Refer also to the Written Entry Checklist and the Written Entry Evaluation Form.

WRITTEN EVENT STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. This must be signed and submitted with the entry. Do **not** include it in the page numbering.

TITLE PAGE. The first page of the written entry is the title page. It must include in any order, but is not limited to, the following:

INDEPENDENT BUSINESS PLAN

- Name of DECA chapter
- Name of high school
- School address
- City, State/Province, ZIP/Postal Code
- Names of participants
- Date

Title page will **not** be numbered.

TABLE OF CONTENTS. The table of contents should follow the title page. The table of contents may be single-spaced and may be one or more pages long. The table of contents page(s) will **not** be numbered.

BODY OF THE WRITTEN ENTRY. The body of the written entry begins with Section I, Executive Summary, and continues in the sequence outlined here. The first page of the body is numbered “1” and all following pages are numbered in sequence. Page numbers continue through the bibliography (required) and the appendix (optional).

This outline must be followed. Points for each section are included on the Written Entry Evaluation Form. Each section must be titled, including the bibliography and the appendix.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One- to three-page description of the project

II. PROBLEM

List the top three problems your product/service is addressing.

III. CUSTOMER SEGMENTS

Who are the target customers?

IV. UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

What is the single, clear, compelling message that states why your product/service is different and worth buying?

V. SOLUTION

What are the top three features of your product/service?

VI. CHANNELS

What are the pathways to customers?

VII. REVENUE STREAMS

What is the revenue model and what are the lifetime values?

VIII. COST STRUCTURE

What are the customer acquisition costs, distribution costs, human resources costs and other additional costs?

IX. DETAILED FINANCIALS

- A. Projected income and expenses (The following items are recommended for inclusion. You may select the appropriate items for your business.)
 - 1. Projected income statements by month for the first year’s operation (sales, expenses, profit loss)
 - 2. Projected cash flow by month for the first year’s operation
 - 3. Projected balance sheet, end of first year
 - 4. Projected three-year plan
 - 5. A brief narrative description of the planned growth of the proposed business, including financial resources and needs
- B. Proposed plan to meet capital needs (The following are recommended for inclusion. You may select the appropriate items for your business.)
 - 1. Personal and internal sources
 - 2. Earnings, short-term and long-term borrowing, long-term equity
 - 3. External sources
 - 4. Repayment plans
 - 5. Plan to repay borrowed funds or provide return on investment to equity funds



1 to 3
PARTICIPANTS



PAGES
ALLOWED



PRESENTATION
TIME

X. KEY METRICS

What are the key activities that must be measured?

XI. COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

What about your product/service means that it cannot be easily copied or bought?

XII. CONCLUSION

Specific request for financing, summary of key points supporting the financial request

XIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**XIV. APPENDIX**

An appendix is optional. If additional material is appended, all pages must be numbered as noted previously. Include in an appendix any exhibits appropriate to the written entry, but not important enough to include in the body. These might include sample questionnaires used, letters sent and received, general background data, minutes of meetings, etc.

WRITTEN ENTRY CHECKLIST

In addition to Written Entry Guidelines, participants must observe all of the standards on the Written Entry Checklist on page 52. These standards are designed to make competition as fair as possible.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- Prior to the presentation, the judge will evaluate the written portion of the entry. The major emphasis of the written entry is on the content. Drawings, illustrations and graphic presentations (where allowed) will be judged for clarity, not artistic value.
- The participants, assuming the role of entrepreneurs, will have prepared a detailed comprehensive proposal to start a new business. The role of the judge is that of a potential source of capital for the business who evaluates as if actually going to approve (or disapprove) the request for financing.
- The participants will present the business plan proposal to the judge in a 15-minute presentation worth 40 points. (See Presentation Judging.)
- The presentation begins immediately after the introduction of the participants to the judge by the adult assistant. Each participant must take part in the presentation.
- Each participant may bring a copy of the written entry or note cards pertaining to the written entry and use as reference during the presentation.
- If time remains, the judge may ask questions pertaining to the proposal.
- The participants may use the following items during the oral presentation:
 - not more than three (3) standard-sized posters not to exceed 22¹/₂ inches by 30¹/₂ inches each. Participants may use both sides of the posters, but all attachments must fit within the poster dimensions.
 - one (1) standard-sized presentation display board not to exceed 36¹/₂ inches by 48¹/₂ inches.
 - one (1) desktop flip chart presentation easel 12 inches by 10 inches (dimensions of the page).
 - one (1) personal laptop computer.
 - cell phones/smartphones, iPods/MP3 players, iPads/tablets or any type of a hand-held, information sharing device will be allowed in written events **IF** applicable to the presentation.
 - sound, as long as the volume is kept at a conversational level.
- Only visual aids that can be easily carried to the presentation by the actual participants will be permitted, and the participants themselves must set up the visuals. No set-up time will be allowed. Participants must furnish their own materials and equipment. No electrical power or Internet connection will be supplied.
- Materials appropriate to the situation may be handed to or left with judges in all competitive events. Items of monetary value may be handed to but may not be left with judges. Items such as flyers, brochures, pamphlets and business cards may be handed to or left with the judge. No food or drinks allowed.
- If any of these rules are violated, the adult assistant must be notified by the judge.

PRESENTATION JUDGING

Participants will make a 15-minute presentation to you. You are role-playing a loan officer or venture capitalist. You may refer to the written entry, or to notes, during the presentation.

At the beginning of the presentation (after introduction), the participant will describe the proposal and make the request for financing. Allow the participants to complete this portion without interruption, unless you are asked to respond. Each participant must take part in the presentation..

If time remains, you may ask questions that seem appropriate, based on your notes or on the written entry itself (to which you may refer during the presentation).

At the conclusion of the presentation, thank the participants. Then complete the Presentation Evaluation Form, making sure to record a score for all categories. The maximum score for the presentation is 40 points.



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WRITTEN ENTRY EVALUATION FORM

Please refer to the **Written Entry Guidelines** for a more detailed explanation of these items.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
1. One- to three-page description of the business model	0-1	2-3	4	5	
PROBLEM	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
2. List of the top three problems the product/service is addressing	0-1	2-3	4	5	
CUSTOMER SEGMENTS	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
3. Description of target customers	0-1	2-3	4	5	
UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
4. Description of the single, clear, compelling message that states why the product/service is different and worth buying	0-1	2-3	4	5	
SOLUTION	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
5. Description of the top three features of the product/service	0-1	2-3	4	5	
CHANNELS	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
6. Descriptions of the pathways to customers	0-1	2-3	4	5	
REVENUE STREAM	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
7. Description of the revenue model and life time values	0-1	2-3	4	5	
COST STRUCTURE	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
8. Explanation of the customer acquisition costs, distribution costs, human resources costs and any additional costs	0-1	2-3	4	5	
DETAILED FINANCIALS	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
9. Projected income and expenses and proposed plan to meet capital needs	0-1	2-3	4	5	
KEY METRICS	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
10. Explanation of the key activities that must be measured	0-1	2-3	4	5	
COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
11. Explanation of why the product/service cannot be easily copied or bought	0-1	2-3	4	5	
CONCLUSION	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
12. Specific request for financing, summary of key points supporting the financial request	0-1	2-3	4	5	

WRITTEN ENTRY TOTAL POINTS (60)

JUDGE _____



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PRESENTATION EVALUATION FORM

PRESENTATION	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
1. Opening presentation and request: description of the project; organization, clarity and effectiveness of the presentation	0-1	2-3	4	5	

TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE PARTICIPANTS:	LITTLE/ NO VALUE	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	JUDGED SCORE
2. Assess opportunities for venture creation	0-1	2-3	4	5	
3. Determine feasibility of venture ideas	0-1	2-3	4	5	
4. Assess start-up requirements	0-1	2-3	4	5	
5. Evaluate risk-taking opportunities	0-1	2-3	4	5	
6. Explain the complexity of business operations	0-1	2-3	4	5	
7. Determine relationships among total revenue, marginal revenue, output and profit	0-1	2-3	4	5	
8. Describe marketing functions and related activities	0-1	2-3	4	5	

PRESENTATION TOTAL POINTS (40)	
WRITTEN ENTRY (60)	
PRESENTATION (40)	
SUBTOTAL (100)	
LESS PENALTY POINTS	
TOTAL SCORE	

JUDGE _____