

(160) Economic Research Team (S)

Description

One economic research topic is selected by the National Center and provided at the beginning of the school year. The team will conduct research on the topic and present findings in a research paper, an oral presentation, and respond to questions from a panel of judges. *All Economic Research Team members competing at the National Leadership Conference will receive a complimentary certification voucher for the Precision Exams Economics Certification (<https://www.precisionexams.com/exams/finance/>).* *Vouchers will be awarded at the time of check-in during the preliminary round presentation. This certification will be optional and not required as part of the competitive event final score.*

Eligibility

Any student member may enter this team event. A team will consist of 2-4 members. Each team may submit only one (1) research paper. Members participating in national level competition must be registered for the event prior to submission deadline for technical judging. Teams must participate in both parts of the competition in order to be ranked.

Topic

A balance of trade is the difference between the United States' exports and imports in a given year. This balance of trade can be a surplus or a deficit depending on the time and market. Both a surplus and a deficit are favorable and unfavorable simultaneously depending on who you ask. Research the recent history of the United States' balance of trade and discuss who the "winners" are and who the "losers" are. What, if anything, should be done to "correct" the balance of trade?

Teams who do *not* submit an entry that follows this topic will be *disqualified*.

Team must supply

One envelope containing the materials as listed in the specifications section

Notes or note cards for oral presentation (optional)

Presentation device

Presentation software

Sound cards (optional)

External speakers (optional)

Projection system (optional)

Digital presentation tools (no videos will be allowed) (optional)

No Internet access will be provided on-site at NLC; however, teams may provide their own access to be used only for their presentation to the judges

Teams must bring all supporting devices (e.g., extension cords, power supply, etc.)

Carry-in and set-up of equipment must be done solely by the team and must take place within the time allotted

Business Professionals of America assumes no responsibility for hardware/software provided by the team. No equipment, supplies, or materials other than those specified for an event will be allowed in the testing area. No previous Business Professionals of America tests and/or sample tests or facsimiles thereof (handwritten, photocopied, or keyed) may be taken into the testing area. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

Competencies

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic economic concepts by exploring and analyzing global and domestic economic issues
- Evaluate, research, and communicate findings, both orally and in writing
- Explore basic economic concepts that affect the workplace
- Identify economic systems
- Explain how economic growth can be promoted and measured
- Conduct research using various resources and methods
- Analyze basic economic problems

Specifications

- This is a pre-submitted event. See instructions for submissions.
- **Submit the research paper and Works Cited in a combined PDF file to: <https://presubmit.bpa.org>, no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on April 1, 2021.**
- Members will receive an automated response confirmation at the time of submission.
- Individual confirmation of receipt *cannot* be provided by the National Center.
- Member ID will be required for all submissions.
- No fax or mailed copies will be accepted.
- No exceptions can be made for missed deadlines due to incorrect submission or technical difficulties.
- Multiple submissions *cannot* be accepted.
- Only one (1) team members should complete the submission.
- Materials from non-registered members, those missing chapter number and/or projects received after the deadline *cannot* be accepted.
- No changes can be made to the paper after the date of submission.
- The research paper must follow the Report format located in the [Style & Reference Manual](#). (Note: no title page is required.) Header information on the first page of the report should be as follows: Member ID Number (Only one Sender's ID – XXXXXXXX), Harvey Rosen (Recipient's Name), Financial Services Department (Recipient's Department), and Current Date.
- Length of document is limited to seven (7) double-spaced, single-sided, numbered pages with one-inch margins. The Works Cited page(s) is/are *not* included in the seven pages; however, any graphs, tables or charts included will be included in the seven-page limit. Judges will *not* read additional pages beyond the seven (7) allowed pages.
- Each research paper must reflect the team's own research, writing, and original thinking.
- Team may use one laptop/notebook computer and projection equipment for presentation. Those who want to use computer/projection equipment for presentation must provide their own equipment.
- The research paper and entry form must be keyed/word-processed.
- No changes can be made to the paper after the date of submission.
- Each paper must include a word-processed Works Cited page(s) which follows the [Style & Reference Manual](#) format.
- One (1) copy of the completed research paper and Works Cited must be submitted at the time of presentation at NLC at both the Preliminary and Final Competition.
- The length of the presentation will be no more than seven (7) minutes, followed by no more than five (5) minutes of judges' questions.
- It is the policy of Business Professionals of America to comply with state and federal copyright law. Federal law pertaining to copyright, as contained within the United States Code, is available at <https://www.copyright.gov/title17/title17.pdf>. The [Style & Reference Manual](#) contains guidelines for Copyright and Fair Use. Participant(s) will be *disqualified* for violations of the guidelines.

Method of evaluation

Technical Scoring Rubric
Presentation Scoring Rubric

Length of event

No more than three (3) minutes set-up time
No more than seven (7) minutes presentation time
No more than five (5) minutes of judges' questions
Finals may be included at state and national levels

Entries

Each state is allowed two (2) entries

Teams in all judged events who wish to receive judges' comments must submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the event judges before judging takes place.

Materials submitted for technical judging *cannot* be returned and will *not* be available at NLC.

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Judge Number _____

Team Number _____

Technical Scoring Rubric

Team Violated the Copyright and/or Fair Use Guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>(Disqualification)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please stop scoring and provide a brief reason for the <i>disqualification</i> below:		
Team followed topic	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(Disqualification)</i>

Items to Evaluate RESEARCH PAPER	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent	Points Awarded
Team submitted the correct information and in the correct format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research Paper – PDF format <i>All points or none are awarded by the technical judge.</i>				10	
Comprehension of Topic Demonstrates understanding of subject matter	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Organization and Expansion of Ideas Analysis follows logical progression	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Introduction/Summary Logical analysis, evidence to support conclusions, compelling summary	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Creativity Diverse resources, creative angle on the issue, originality	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Writing Skills Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, concise language, sentence structure	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Overall Effectiveness of Analysis	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
TOTAL TECHNICAL POINTS (130 points maximum)					

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Team Number _____

Presentation Scoring Rubric

Evaluation of Oral Presentation	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent	Points Awarded
Opening and summary	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Content of presentation	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Effectiveness of presentation: Voice projection, transitions, flow, stage presence, etc.	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
Answers to judges' questions	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
TOTAL PRESENTATION POINTS (80 points maximum)					

Props and/or additional items shall not be used as a basis for scoring.

Specification Points Rubric

SPECIFICATION POINTS: All points or none per item are awarded by the proctor per member, <i>not</i> per judge.		Points Awarded
Set-up lasted no longer than three (3) minutes – 5 points Presentation lasted no longer than seven (7) minutes – 5 points	10	
Documentation submitted at time of check-in: Research Paper (1 copy) <i>Must have copies for both preliminaries and finals</i>	10	
All registered team members participated in the presentation	10	
Word-processed research paper and Works Cited page(s) followed the <i>Style & Reference Manual</i>	10	
TOTAL SPECIFICATION POINTS (40 points maximum)		

TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS = 250

PRESENTATION WILL BE STOPPED AT SEVEN MINUTES