**Economic Research Team (S) (160)**

**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.

**Eligibility**
Any student may enter this team event. A team will consist of 2-4 members. Each team may submit only one (1) research paper. Contestants 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.

**Team must supply**
- One envelope containing the materials as listed in the specifications section.
- Notes or note cards for oral presentation (optional).

**Specifications**
- This is a pre-submitted event. See instructions for submissions.
- The completed research paper and a Team Entry Form must be submitted to the National Center at [http://www.bpa.org/submit](http://www.bpa.org/submit) in .pdf format no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Time on March 28, 2014.
- Contestants will receive an automated response confirmation at the time of submission.
- Individual confirmation of receipt cannot be provided by the National Center.
- 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.
- Contestants must be registered for national level competition prior to submission of materials.
- The contestant number must be included as indicated.
- Materials from non-registered contestants, 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: Contestant ID (Sender’s Name), Harvey Rosen (Recipient’s Name), Financial Services Department (Recipient’s Department), and Current Date.

Length of document is limited to five (5) double-spaced, single-sided, numbered pages with one-inch margins. The Works Cited page(s) is/are not included in the five pages.

No additional charts, tables, graphics, etc. will be accepted.

Each research paper must reflect the research, writing, and original thinking of the team.

The research paper and entry form must be keyed/word-processed.

Each paper must include a word-processed works cited page, which follows the *Style & Reference Manual* format.

Two (2) copies of the completed research paper and two (2) copies of the Team Entry Form, must be submitted to the NLC, at both Preliminary and Final Competition.

Oral presentation will be limited to five (5) minutes for presenting conclusions to the panel of judges and ten (10) minutes to answer judges’ questions. Notes or note cards may be used.

**Presentation will be stopped at five (5) minutes.**

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

The Federal government has been discussing raising the minimum wage again. What is the overall economic impact of an increase in the minimum wage?

Your research project can include, but is not limited to the following:

1. What would be the effects on small businesses?
2. What would be the effects on unemployment?
3. What demographics would be affected by this change?
4. What would be the effect on the price level of consumer goods?

**Method of evaluation**

Technical Scoring Rubric
Presentation Scoring Rubric

**Length of event**

No more than five (5) minutes presentation time
No more than ten (10) 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 administrator/proctor before judging takes place.

Materials submitted for technical judging cannot be returned and will not be available at NLC.
### Technical Scoring Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items to Evaluate</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Points Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Comprehension of topic**  
Demonstrates understanding of subject matter | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 |                |
| **Organization and expansion of ideas**  
Argument follows logical progression | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 |                |
| **Introduction/Summary**  
Logical argument, evidence to support conclusions, compelling summary | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 |                |
| **Creativity**  
Diverse resources, creative angle on the issue, originality, inventiveness | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 |                |
| **Writing Skills**  
Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, concise language, sentence structure | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 |                |
| Word-processed research paper following the *Style & Reference Manual* |  |  |  |  | 20 |
| Word-processed works cited page |  |  |  |  | 20 |

**TOTAL TECHNICAL POINTS (140 points maximum)**

Team is required to prepare their research paper according to the *Style & Reference Manual*. 
### Presentation Scoring Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation of oral presentation</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Points Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening and summary</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>16-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content of presentation</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>16-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness of presentation</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>16-20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Voice projection, transitions,</td>
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<tr>
<td>flow, stage presence, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of problem solution</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>16-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers to judges’ questions</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>16-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL PRESENTATION POINTS (100 points maximum)**

### Specification Points Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFICATION POINTS: All points or none are awarded by the proctor per contestant, not per judge.</th>
<th>Points Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation lasted no longer than five (5) minutes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two (2) copies of documents submitted at time of presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All registered members of team participated in presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL SPECIFICATION POINTS (30 points maximum)**

**TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS = 270**

**PRESENTATION WILL BE STOPPED AT FIVE MINUTES**