



CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

(530)

REGIONAL 2026

PRELIMINARY

Judge Key

TOPICS

- Should every college require a credit-bearing personal finance course for graduation?
- How can part-time campus jobs help students develop marketable soft skills?
- Should cafés near colleges give discounts for reusable mugs even if profits shrink?
- Do small teams collaborate just as well over Zoom as they do in person? Defend your view.
- How can student-run start-ups use social media to reach national audiences on tight budgets?
- Should fast-food outlets near campuses display calorie counts on digital menus?
- Can vending machines stocked only with nutritious items stay profitable in student centers?
- Should public libraries partner with colleges to lend laptops and hotspots to underserved communities?

EVENT GUIDELINES

1. Prep Room Details

- The contestants will draw two (2) different business topics and will select either one. The topics may deal with Business Professionals of America, office situations, the business world, etc.
- The contestants will be provided ten (10) minutes to develop the topic. Notes will be made on the note cards provided by the event proctor. No advisor contact will be allowed between the time of receiving the topic and the delivery.

2. Presentation Details

- Contestants will be introduced by Contestant ID. **Contestants may continue to wear their name badges.**
- Contestants will present before a panel of judges and timekeeper.
- The length of the speech will be no less than three (3) minutes and no more than five (5) minutes.
- The contestant will be given warnings via flash cards when there are two (2) minutes remaining and when there is one (1) minute remaining during the speaking time.
- The speech will be stopped at five (5) minutes.

3. Judge Details

- No time is allotted for judges' questions.
- Contestants should be dismissed upon completion of their speech.
- There can be no ties in the top 10 teams. Judges are responsible for breaking any ties.
- The administrator will fill out the ranking sheet before dismissing the judges.
- If more than one (1) section is necessary, finalists will be determined by selecting an equal number from each section.
- No audience is allowed in the contest room.

4. **Scoring**

- Individual scores are not to be given to students.
- Only general statements are to be shared.
- Contestants are not allowed to ask questions.
- Please share your comments directly online. Contestants will see these comments which will help prepare them for future competitions.

5. **Post-Presentation:**

- **Materials:** Give any contest materials to the administrator.
- **Audience:** No audience is allowed in the contest room.

FINAL STEPS

Double-check and verify all scores.