

Extemporaneous Writing- Health Policy



Event Category: Leadership.....

Eligible Divisions: Secondary & Postsecondary/ Collegiate	Round One: Written policy letter in 60 minutes	Digital Upload: YES, policy letter written event time noted below.
Solo Event: 1 competitor	Competitor Must Provide: Electronic device and internet accessibility	

This event will take place prior to SLC on Thursday, February 25th at 7:00PM

Competitors will be emailed at 7:00pm Wednesday (2/24) with a link to the secret topic.

The secret topic will not be accessible until 7:00pm on 2/25.

Competitors should contact Stacie Elwood (statedirector@schosa.org) if the email is not received.

Event Summary

Extemporaneous Writing—Health Policy allows HOSA members to gain the knowledge and skills to write an effective letter to a policymaker. On the day of the competition, competitors will receive a secret topic that outlines a relevant health policy or issue with supporting details. Competitors will draft their letters in 60 minutes to submit to judges. This event aims to inspire members to learn more about current health policy and feel empowered to make a difference by voicing their opinions on important health topics to applicable decision-makers to effect change.

General Event Information

General Rules	Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the General Rules and Regulations .
Competitors Must Provide	The electronic device, containing a typing program of the competitor's choosing, AND internet accessibility.

ROUND ONE- Written Policy Letter

The Letter Details	- Competitors will write a letter to an assigned health policymaker in support or opposition of a given secret topic. The secret topic will be distributed to competitors at the beginning of the competition. - The topic shall relate to a current health policy issue. All competitors shall write on the same topic. The topic is a secret topic that is not disclosed until the event begins. Professional ethics demand that competitors DO NOT discuss or reveal the secret topic for ANY event until after the event has concluded. Violation of the ethics rules will be severely penalized per the GRRs. - The letter will include the key items below. Competitors must memorize these key points to include in their letters. - Name and address of addressee (this information will be listed in the secret topic) - Appropriate salutation to the addressee - Subject line of the letter - Constituent (competitor who is writing the letter) with mailing address and email so you may be contacted with a response - Statement of why you support or oppose the given bill/health policy issue. Include three points that support your position.
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	f. Include reasoning and evidence about why this issue is important to you and/or how it affects you, your family, or members of the community g. A firm conclusion restating your position AND indicating you would like a response back h. At the bottom of the letter, include the competitor's name, HOSA division, chapter number, school name, and South Carolina. 4. No plagiarism is allowed, and work must be done by the competitors per the GRRs.
Competitive Process	1. Competitors will receive an email with a link to the secret topic on Wednesday, 2/24. 2. The secret topic will become accessible to competitors at 7:00pm on Thursday 2/25. 3. Competitors will be given sixty (60) minutes to write the letter. 4. Competitors will type their letters into the typing program of their choice (Microsoft Word, Text, Google Docs, etc.).
Submission Process Used at SLC	1. At the end of sixty (60) minutes, competitors will be given five (5) additional minutes to submit their letters. 2. The letter will be uploaded on the www.schosa.org Extemporaneous Writing-Health Policy webpage.
Sample Topic:	<i>You are a HOSA student in Montana. The current legislative session is hearing HB-300: Revise Education Laws Related to Career and Technology Student Organizations.</i> <i>HB-300 expands funding for seven CTSOs (Career and Technology Student Organizations) in the state, including HOSA. The bill would give the CTSOs in the state a total of \$500,000. Proponents of the bill argue that the funding is vital to assisting CTSOs in their work with students and that investing in education is always a good decision. Opponents of the bill argue that evidence is lacking for the effectiveness of CTSOs and that the money would be better spent and managed elsewhere.</i> <i>You are to write a letter of support or opposition to HB-300 addressed to:</i> <i>Senator Marie Wilson</i> <i>PO Box 1234</i> <i>Cricket, MT, 55555</i>

Final Scoring

In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker will be determined by the areas on the rating sheet section(s) with the highest point value in descending order.

International Leadership Conference (ILC) qualifiers

Go to <https://hosa.org/guidelines/> for specifics about this competitive event at ILC.
 June 22-25, 2027, Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

High School/Post-Secondary/Collegiate Seniors

Don't wait until you graduate to join the HOSA alumni network! Graduating from high school or completing your postsecondary/collegiate program does not mean your HOSA journey has to end. As a HOSA member, you are eligible to become a HOSA Lifetime Alumni Member- a free and valuable opportunity to remain connected, give back, and help to shape the future of the organization. Learn more and sign up at hosa.org/alumni.

SC HOSA Scholarship

Application: <https://www.schosa.org/students/scholarships/>

Application Window Opens: December 1, 2026

Application Deadline: February 1, 2027

National HOSA Scholarship

Scholarship program has funding available for HOSA members who have an interest in various health careers! The application process begins January 1, 2027, and can be found here: <https://hosa.org/scholarships/>.

Extemporaneous Writing- Health Policy

Written Policy Letter Rubric

Competitor #: _____ Division: _____ SS _____ PS/C Judge's Signature: _____

A. Adherence to Guidelines	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Name, Address, and appropriate salutation of addressee	The letter contains: 1.name of addressee 2. Address 3. appropriate salutation	N/A	The letter contains 2 of the 3 items.	N/A	The letter contains 0-1 of the 3 items.	
2. Subject Line of the letter	Subject line is included.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Subject line is not included.	
3. Identification of Constituent	Constituent is identified with mailing and email address	N/A	N/A	N/A	Constituent is not identified and/or information missing	
4. Competitor Identifying Information	Competitor provides name, HOSA division, chapter #, school name & chartered association	N/A	Competitor included 3 of the 5 identifying information.	N/A	Competitor only provided 1-2 of the identifying information, or none at all.	
B. Content	EXCELLENT 15 points	GOOD 12 points	AVERAGE 9 points	FAIR 6 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Statement of Support or Opposition to Given Bill/ Health Policy	The statement of support or opposition catches the reader's attention, provides background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition catches the reader's attention, provides some background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition fails to catch the reader's attention, provides some background on the topic, and is the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition does not catch the reader's attention, provides little background on the topic, and fails to be the central point of the letter.	The statement of support or opposition does not catch the reader's attention, provides no background on the topic, and fails to be the central point of the letter.	
2. Supporting Point #1	Writing includes strong evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/ concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that primarily supports or refutes the topic/ main idea. It uses sensory /concrete words and details supporting the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/ details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	
3. Supporting Point #2	Writing includes vital evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/ concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that primarily supports or refutes the topic/main idea. It uses sensory/ concrete words and details supporting the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	

4. Supporting Point #3	Writing includes vital evidence that effectively supports or refutes the secret topic/main idea. Uses many sensory/ concrete words and details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that primarily supports or refutes the topic/ main idea. It uses sensory/ concrete words and details supporting the competitor's view.	Writing includes evidence that partially supports or refutes the topic/main idea. Uses minimal sensory or concrete words/ details that support the competitor's view.	Writing includes minimal evidence to support or refute the topic/main idea. There is a lack of sensory or concrete words/details that support the competitor's view.	Writing does not include evidence to support or refute the topic/ main idea. Does not use sensory or concrete words/ details that support the competitor's view.	
B. Content	EXCELLENT 15 points	GOOD 12 points	AVERAGE 9 points	FAIR 6 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
5. Personal Story	The writer demonstrates command of the topic throughout, and discusses the topic and its significance to the competitor and/or community. The writer uses the topic as a path for the letter, and offers explanations and insights that enhance the understanding of the topic.	Mentions the topic and its significance to competitors and/or the community. Uses the topic as a path for the letter. Competitor offers explanations and insights that link back to the topic.	Mention the topic and briefly explain its significance to competitors and/or the community.	The paper briefly mentions the topic but does not provide any analysis or reasoning behind its significance to the competitor and/or community.	Did not include much in the way of significance to the competitor and/or community.	
C. Conclusion	EXCELLENT 10 points	GOOD 8 points	AVERAGE 6 points	FAIR 4 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Conclusion	The conclusion is concise and summarizes supporting points; it restates the competitor's position in a new way. The judge is satisfied with the conclusion and is left with something to think about.	The conclusion is mostly concise and summarizes the supporting points. The judge is indifferent to the letter's conclusion.	The conclusion summarizes supporting points; it does not restate the competitor's position.	The conclusion may be attempted but does not summarize or restate the competitor's position.	No conclusion is apparent in the letter.	
C. Conclusion	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
2. Indication of Request for Response	The competitor clearly requests a response	N/A	N/A	N/A	Request for a response is missing.	
D. Organization	EXCELLENT 5 points	GOOD 4 points	AVERAGE 3 points	FAIR 2 points	POOR 0 points	JUDGE SCORE
1. Grammar	Zero (0) grammatical errors were found in this letter.	1-2 grammatical errors were found in this letter. They do not detract from the general flow of the letter.	3-4 errors were found in the letter, detracting from the overall flow of the letter.	There are 5-6 grammatical errors present, which detract from the meaning and flow of the letter.	More than 6 errors were found. The errors are glaring, and the letter is difficult to read.	
2. Spelling & Punctuation	Zero (0) errors in spelling and punctuation were found in this letter.	1-2 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this letter.	3-4 errors in spelling or punctuation in this letter.	5-6 errors in spelling or punctuation were found in this letter.	6 or more errors in spelling or punctuation were documented within the letter.	
Total Points (120):						