

How To Hold a Mock Competition

What is a Mock Competition?

A mock competition is an event held right before competition that is basically a fake competitive conference. There are judges with rubrics; the students conduct real role plays or presentations; they wear professional dress, and treat it like a real competition.

What are some benefits of a Mock Competition?

A mock competition is a great way to prepare your students for their upcoming District, State, or International Conference. It allows them to run through a role play or presentation in front of a judge, before they get into real competition. They can see what the strengths of their project are, what they might need to work on, and what they might need to add or omit.

How To (Only Your Chapter):

1. Pick a time and stick with it. Reserve a time in your library, or cafeteria, or anywhere you feel comfortable for right after school or at night. Then tell your students that that is the time and it is mandatory.
2. Next are the judges. This mock competition does not work if you do not have judges. These can be local businessmen, teachers, parents, whoever you think will be unbiased and honest with your students.
3. Give students time slots. Don't tell all of the students to come at 6 pm and then have half of them waiting for an hour and being loud in the hallway. Multiple people can go at a time (that number will depend on the number of judges), but if you say that Student X is at 6 pm, Student Y is at 6:15 pm, and Student Z at 6:30 pm it will be much more organized and run smoothly.

4. The day of... be sure each judge has the correct rubric and fully understands the topic.

Have the students act like it is a real competition and go through all the proper steps they would do with a real judge. At the end of the night, collect all of the rubrics from the judges, which should have scores and notes on them, and hand them back to the students the next day in class so they can see what they need to work on.

How To (Multiple Chapters):

The process should be the same as only one chapter. The challenges of competing against other chapters would be that you would have to find a time and location that works for both chapters and find more judges. The benefits, however, would be that you could see how your projects stack up against other chapters, and at the end of the night you could hold a miniature awards ceremony, and even offer pizza (students love pizza!!). Get your local business partners involved by providing judges or food.