



GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

Failure to follow the stated guidelines could result in disqualification of student competing.

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

1. Be an Active-level paid national member of Educators Rising for the current school year. State level membership must be paid, if applicable.
2. Sign up to compete at the national conference and submit any required materials by the stated deadline through the Student Resources section in the EdRising Membership Portal.
This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference.
3. Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competition entries. Not all competitions are open to all divisions.
 - Middle School level — Grades 7, 8
 - High School Junior Varsity level — Grades 9, 10
 - High School Varsity level — Grades 11, 12
 - Collegiate level – Undergraduates only
- Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If there are not at least three competitors registered for a competition in a division, the competitors will be moved to the next highest division. The collegiate division will compete in their own division regardless of the number of competitors.
- All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.
- For teams consisting of students of varying grade levels, the team will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions, they must first qualify in that given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitions. Visit bit.ly/EdRisingAffiliates to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top ten places in each competition for each division offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference; no other entrants from states that offer the competition at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions.
- For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions.
 - For example, if you want to compete in Impromptu Speaking but place sixth or lower in your state- level Impromptu Speaking competition or don't compete in

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.

Eligibility

- Students must be a paid Active-level student member of Educators Rising no later than February 1 of the year in which they are competing.
- Students may enter up to a total of two events. This can be either two individual events, two team events, or one individual and one team event.
- Teacher leaders may enter up to two students per school in each individual event per division and one team for team events per division.

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the state level competitions at all — you unfortunately can't compete in Impromptu Speaking at the Educators Rising National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold an Impromptu Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.

Competition Entries

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2020-2021 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
- **In order to be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues and required materials must be submitted by the deadline stated in the Student Resources Section of the EdRising Membership Portal.**
 - Each competition guideline will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification.
 - ***Students who have won state-level competitions must also submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.***
- For entries in national competitions, competitors must submit or bring to the event all required materials described in the national competition guidelines. Any materials or forms submitted at previous state or local presentations need to be resubmitted for the national competition in order to count in national competitions.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be in .mp4 format. Videos that are not in this file format will not be accepted and will be immediately disqualified. Videos will not be accepted by mail. The maximum file size for any video submitted in advance is 2 GB. **All competitors should also bring a copy of the video file on a USB drive to the conference.** Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA in regard to student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.

- Except when explicitly specified, the internet may not be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference. All relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive. All Prezi files should be downloaded to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Students should bring their own pointing device, if needed.

Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

- **All competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** Conference dates and location will be posted on the Educators Rising website and Membership Portal.
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification. Competition schedules will be posted in the Educators Rising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. Be sure to check these schedules prior to your arrival.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. **(See the section Competition Dress Code for details on what is acceptable.)** Points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to follow the stated dress code.
- Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in disqualification of the contestant.
- Teacher Leaders, Chaperones, and Parents are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a national office staff member.

Competition Dress Code

All competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire when competing. Refer to the guidelines below for a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual."

- **Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants**
Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, dressy capris, and nice-looking dress synthetic pants are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, Bermuda shorts, short shorts, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and

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any spandex or other form-fitting pants such as those in which people wear for biking.

- **Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits**

Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, beach dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses are inappropriate.

- **Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets**

Casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and polo shirts are acceptable. Educators Rising polo shirts are encouraged. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops; tops with bare shoulders; sweatshirts, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.

- **Shoes and Footwear**

Conservative athletic or walking shoes, loafers, clogs, sneakers, boots, flats, dress heels, and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Flashy athletic shoes, thongs, flip-flops, and slippers are not acceptable.

- **Hats and Head Covering**

Hats are not appropriate inside of the building. Head covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural tradition are allowed.

Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material

- All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competitive entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permissions must be obtained for the rights to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and to post media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with entry submission. (Note: This

requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics taken from the internet, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)

- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all documents submitted. Judges can disqualify students competing if it is determined that any part of their documents have been plagiarized.

Electronic Devices

- Recording devices are not allowed in competitive events.
- Special approval from the event coordinator and the competitor is required before any event may be recorded.
- All electronic devices—including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—must be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
- No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.

Student Responsibilities for Competitions

- Students and advisors must routinely check the EdRising Membership Portal for updated information about general rules and competitive event guidelines
- Students who participate in any Educators Rising competitive event are responsible for knowing all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event.
- Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 entries. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each category.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website, Membership Portal, and social media sites.



ENTRIES WILL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE EDRISING MEMBERSHIP PORTAL (members.pdkintl.org) IN THE STUDENT RESOURCES SECTION.

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS? CALL 800-766-1156 OR EMAIL INFO@EDUCATORSRISING.ORG.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered,
and on the official schedule for nationals!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: **FEBRUARY 1, 2021 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**
DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ON-SITE SCHEDULING: **APRIL 19, 2021 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

- Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric.** Check the Resources Section in the EdRising Membership Portal. Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.
- Log in to the EdRising Membership Portal, go to the Educators Rising High School Resources section, and click on the Student Resources tab.** Select the competition you are interested in from the list. Read the guidelines and rubrics and then click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online platform.
- Complete the online application, upload any required documents/videos, and submit.** Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged **before** the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents prior to submitting them. Many points have been lost in past years by competitors who had many spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors in their work.

*You must complete and submit the online application by the deadline stated in the Student Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal to be scheduled to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. **Participating at a state or regional conference does not provide a pass on completing this process.***

- Print and save your confirmation email.** You will need this information when you register for the conference.
- Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** All national conference information, including how to register, can be found in the Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal.
- Find out when you are scheduled to compete on-site.** Competition schedules will be posted in the EdRising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. After this date, you can log in and go to the Resources section to find the posted schedules.
- Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- See you at Nationals!** The top 10 for each competition will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on the final day of the conference. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference that you can attend this final celebration.



CREATIVE LECTURE COMPETITION

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual — Open to spectators

ELIGIBILITY LEVELS: Middle School, High School Junior Varsity, High School Varsity, Collegiate

EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:

- Standard I: Understanding the Profession
- Standard II: Learning About Students
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

Contest Purpose

It's time for you to give your TED Talk. Not sure what that is? Check out some of the most viewed TED Talks here: www.ted.com.

Storytelling and effective oral communication skills are vital qualities for professional success. Captivating an audience and sustaining their attention and wonder with a compelling topic remains one of the most valuable abilities in an increasingly networked society. Because great stories about meaningful topics are so fascinating and valuable, TED Talks have become one of the most influential contributions to the Internet, garnering over a billion views. These creative lectures present bold ideas often through personal lenses and have elevated a public speaking format that has been replicated across the world. Watch some TED Talks on education here: www.ted.com/topics/education.

The Creative Lecture Competition will offer ambitious, fearless, bold-thinking students a platform for sharing their ideas in a format that has been embraced by intellectual society.

The topic for the 2021 Creative Lecture Competition is **BARRIERS TO DISTANCE LEARNING**

Prompt: With the COVID-19 crisis of 2020, a majority of U.S. schools were forced to quickly pivot to distance learning for the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration reports that 14% of households with school-age children do not have internet access. Beyond that many households may not have broadband connections, making stable internet connection a challenge. This lack of access disproportionality affects minority students and students in rural areas. Given that distance learning may become standard for the near future, what are some potential avenues for teachers to navigate around the lack of access to technology when they are unable to teach students in person? How do we address issues of inequity both nationwide and within our own schools?

Competition Guidelines

- A. The speech must be about the assigned topic.
- B. The presenter may use a slide deck (ex. PowerPoint or Prezi presentation) but may not use sound or any other props or materials, including notes. The slide deck is purely optional; highly effective TED Talks have been delivered with or without accompanying slides.
- C. The speech should incorporate the research or ideas of others but should ultimately reflect the presenter's original conclusions based on his/her synthesis of ideas and personal experience. Speech should be original, creative, and capture the audience's attention.
- D. Each presentation is to be a minimum of four minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes. Contestants will respond to judges' follow up questions. The entire presentation and question session will last a total of no more than 15 minutes.
- E. Presenters will receive a visual, non-verbal indication that there is one-minute remaining when they reach the 9-minute mark of their speeches.

Judging and scoring

1. The judges' decisions are final.
2. Scoring is based on the Creative Lecture Competition rubric.



CREATIVE LECTURE COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY, COLLEGIATE)

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Judges should use this rubric as a guide to assigning points on the Feedback & Tally Sheet.

Presentation Content

| Points Available | 10-9 Accomplished | 8-6 Commendable | 5-3 Developing | 2-1 Needs Improvement |
|------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Depth | The presentation reflects a deep and comprehensive understanding of the topic's complexities. It succeeds in exploring the topic with skilled nuance. | The presentation reflects understanding of the topic. | The presentation is on-topic and offers some good points, though those points may be surface-level and would benefit from greater exploration and detail. | The presentation reflects limited or flawed understanding of the topic. |
| Insight | The content of the presentation reflects keen understanding and striking insight into a major public issue. | The presentation offers useful, well-detailed ideas that warrant further exploration beyond this session. | The presentation offers intuitive ideas that would have benefited from further unpacking in this session. | The presentation may offer ideas that are only partially developed and feel incomplete. |
| Research | The presenter maximizes his/her impact by usefully incorporating at least two pieces of relevant, expertly selected supporting research. | The presenter supports his/her message by incorporating two pieces of research, though only some of the research cited may succeed in strengthening the presentation's impact. | The presenter makes an attempt to incorporate research into the presentation. However, through the cited research, the presenter does not necessarily display understanding of his/her content. | The presenter makes minimal or no attempts to incorporate relevant research. |



Presentation Delivery

| Points Available | 10–9 Accomplished | 8–6 Commendable | 5–3 Developing | 2–1 Needs Improvement |
|------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Structure | The presentation reflects truly impressive, nuanced command of how to build and deliver a powerful, creative lecture. The speech is successfully and strategically sequenced to move the listener. | The presentation reflects a largely successful effort to develop a compelling message to the listener. | The presentation follows traditional structure without evidence of further ambition or execution. It is direct and on-topic. | The presentation reflects an attempt to address the prompt but is missing multiple necessary components to offer a cogent, compelling message. |
| Presence | The speaker’s sustained eye contact, effective posture, and professional demeanor, expertly complement the substance of the speech to deliver maximum possible impact to the listener. | The speaker’s mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the speech quite well. The presenter may appear to slip in and out of character when beginning and concluding the speech. | The speaker’s inconsistent eye contact, posture, and demeanor reflect a straightforward recital of the material. The speaker could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence. | The speaker may distract from the content or impede the impact of the speech. |
| Vocal Delivery | Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are expertly crafted to deliver to the listener maximum impact and understanding. | Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are strong. The listener is able to understand what the speaker is conveying. | Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are straightforward. The listener is able to understand, but the impact would be increased with a more dynamic vocal delivery. | Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are inconsistent and needing improvement through the presentation. Often, the vocal delivery distracts from the content of the speech and diminishes its potential impact. |

Overall Impact

| Points Available | 20–16 Accomplished | 15–11 Commendable | 10–6 Developing | 5–1 Needs Improvement |
|------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Overall Impact | The content and delivery blend seamlessly to craft an exceptional, professional caliber experience. | The content and delivery work to offer a commendable presentation. | The presentation is commendable for its effort and on-topic content. Delivery and content would benefit from guided practice. | The presentation requires significantly more work. |



EDUCATORS RISING

Length

| Points Available | 5 | 0 |
|------------------|---|---|
| Length | Presentation is between four and 10 minutes | Presentation is shorter than four minutes or longer than 10 minutes |



CREATIVE LECTURE COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY, COLLEGIATE)

Student Name: _____

Student's School, City, State: _____

- Judges will use the Detailed Scoring Rubric as their guide to score students' competition entries.
- Points and feedback will be emailed to the student competitors no later than two weeks after the conference.

Presentation Content

| | Accomplished | Commendable | Developing | Needs Improvement | Score |
|----------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Depth | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |
| Insight | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |
| Research | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |

Presentation Delivery

| | Accomplished | Commendable | Developing | Needs Improvement | Score |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Structure | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |
| Presence | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |
| Vocal Delivery | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |

Overall Impact

| | Accomplished | Commendable | Developing | Needs Improvement | Score |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Overall Impact | 20-16 | 15-11 | 10-6 | 5-1 | |

Length

| | Correct Length | Incorrect Length | Score |
|--------|----------------|------------------|-------|
| Length | 5 | 0 | |

TOTAL SCORE _____/85

FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS: Write two or more sentences.