



## GENERAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

- Participation in the competitive events at the FEA Regional Conference at FIU is by invitation only.
- The chapter's sponsoring teacher must submit all entries for individual and/or chapter competitions via the Online Competition Entry Form by **5:00 pm, October 31, 2025**. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.
- All competitors must be registered to attend the conference on the Eventbrite registration site. Competitors who are not registered on Eventbrite will be disqualified.
- Individual competitions are open to high school FEA members.
- Chapter competitions are open to high school FEA chapters.
- Each high school FEA member may enter one competitive event only, either an individual or a chapter event.
- The number of entries allowed per school varies by competition.
- FEA sponsoring teachers may enter one team for each of the chapter events. The number of entrants is capped for both the individual and chapter events.
- All submitted materials must be original work from the 2025–2026 school year. Previously created or submitted materials are ineligible.
- Some competitions may require the submission of materials before the conference. All required materials must be submitted by **5:00 pm, Friday, November 7, 2025**. Failure to meet the deadline will result in disqualification.
- Competitors may use AV materials if allowed. Relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive, including downloaded Prezi files. Internet access will not be available. Competitors should bring their own pointing device if needed.
- Competitors must report to their assigned competition room on



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time. **Failure to do so can result in disqualification.**

- Competitors must dress in business-casual attire. Points will be deducted for failure to adhere to the dress code. Refer to the section “Competition Dress Code” for details.
- Spectators may not coach or offer any assistance to competitors during their judging time. A breach of this guideline may result in the competitor's disqualification.
- Recording competitions is prohibited without prior consent from competitors and judges.
- Sponsoring teachers and chaperones are not permitted to approach judges regarding scoring or feedback. Concerns should be directed to an FEA Regional Conference staff member.
- Certificates of participation will be awarded to all individual competitors and participating schools in chapter competitions. Awards will be presented to the

top three entries in individual categories and the top two entries in chapter categories.

- All judges’ decisions are final.

### Competition Dress Code

- **Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants.** Acceptable items include Dockers-style pants, wool pants, flannel pants, dressy capris, and dress synthetic pants. Inappropriate items include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, shorts, leggings, and spandex/form-fitting pants.
- **Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits.** Acceptable items include casual dresses and skirts split at or below the knee. Inappropriate items include miniskirts, skorts, sundresses, beach dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses.
- **Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets.** Acceptable items include casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and polo shirts. FEA Chapter polo shirts are encouraged. Inappropriate items include tank tops, midriff tops, shirts with offensive words



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or logos, halter tops, tops with bare shoulders, sweatshirts, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.

- **Shoes and Footwear**

Acceptable items include conservative athletic or walking shoes, loafers, clogs, sneakers, boots, flats, and leather deck-type shoes. Inappropriate items include high-heeled shoes, flashy athletic shoes, flip-flops, and slippers.

- **Hats and Head-Covering.** Hats are not appropriate inside the building. Head covers required for religious purposes or to honor cultural traditions are allowed.

### **Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material**

- All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources must be cited in competition submissions.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material. If used, written permission must be

obtained and included with the entry submission. This includes graphics from the web and other media materials, but does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.

- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Judges may disqualify students from competing if any part of their documents contains plagiarized content.

### **Electronic Devices**

- Recording devices are not permitted in competitive events without prior approval from both the event coordinator and the competitor.
- All electronic devices—including cell phones, tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—must be turned off unless otherwise specified in specific event regulations.
- No electronic communication devices are permitted during competition.