

## **2017 TEAMS Essay Component FAQ**

Specific essay competition criteria will be posted in the TEAMS coach login on 10/17/2016.

**1. When is the essay due?**

Essays must be submitted at least one day prior to the scheduled competition day.

**2. Who may work on the essay?**

All team members should contribute to the essay. Tasks like research, interviews and production may be spread among members. Only individuals who will be competing as team members in the multiple choice and design/build portions of the competition may work on the essay.

**3. Is there a specific style required?**

Essays should be formatted according to APA guidelines, including bibliography.

**4. How is the essay submitted?**

All essays must be submitted via an online portal. Specific directions for submission will be posted in the TEAMS coach login. Submission dates will be verified.

**5. Is my team required to submit an essay?**

Teams may choose to compete only in the multiple choice and design/build portions on competition day, however the coach must let TSA know prior to competition day that they will not be submitting an essay. This must be done via email to Cindy Donahue ([cdonahue@tsaweb.org](mailto:cdonahue@tsaweb.org)) with the subject line No Essay Submission – include the school name, coach name, state, and any team identifier.

**6. If my team chooses not to submit an essay, how will it affect our score and state rankings?**

State rankings will be posted for each of the three competition components (essay, multiple choice and design/build) and for Best in State. If a team does not submit an essay, that team will not be listed in the essay rankings. Best in State is determined by the combination of the three component scores so, if a team has not submitted an essay, only the scores of the multiple choice and design/build scores will be combined to determine that team's Best in State ranking.

**7. Who judges the essay component?**

Engineering professionals from around the country volunteer to judge essays. This includes both current and retired engineers, as well as engineering professors at universities.

**8. Why is the format changing from previous years?**

The new format emphasizes the research and writing skills needed by today's engineers.

**9. When will the essay scores be available?**

Essay scores will be available no later than the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Can graphics be included in the essay submission?**

Graphics may be included.

**11. Will state rankings be provided for the essay component?**

Yes. Each component (essay, multiple choice and design/build) will produce a score and each component will be ranked separately. The Best in State ranking will be determined by combining the three scores.