

STRUCTURE AND PREPARATION

Hello Ryerson! If you’re reading this, that means you are officially a participant of the 2020 IEF Case Competition! We are proud to see you invest your time and creativity into this project, and we promise you that you’ll have a fantastic time alongside your assigned team members. The following welcome package we are presenting is a brief guide on what you should expect from the case competition, as well as what you should do to make everything go smoothly on the 5th of August. As someone who has previously won a case competition established by the Faculty of Arts, I am honored to give you some quick tips in order to use your full skills and creativity into action. Before any case competition, an important factor to keep in mind prior to a possibly nerve-wrecking event is to calm yourself and be reminded that this event is meant to be fun for whoever participates. Having a calm mind, especially during these challenging times, is vital towards using your full potential during any fun and competitive event. This means drinking water, taking some time to breathe, and understanding that you’re about to do something that will challenge your mind and teach you important lessons about the value of teamwork and developing relationships. The structure of the competition is made up of 4 unique teams, each team consisting of 5 randomly ordered participants. Each team will be assigned a SpongeBob, Harry Potter, or Marvel themed question at different time slots, at which Team 1 & 2 will receive a themed question at 10AM. This pair of teams are given a maximum of 4 hours to prepare for the presentation and are given 15 minutes to present their final idea to the panel of judges through the meeting platform Discord. For teams 3 & 4, their themed question will be assigned at 4PM, once again, giving them 4 hours to prepare for the presentation and 15 minutes to present. Once the judges have made a decision with what teams will make it to the final round, the deadline for the third round will be set to August 12th, at which each team will have their themed questions released to them at 10AM, given 4 hours to prepare, and a 25-minute slot of time to present at 2 PM.

COMMUNICATION

With every competition that requires strong teamwork, comes the responsibility to communicate effectively (subtle Spiderman reference). That means being there for your teammate when they’re undergoing a personal issue, being patient with a separate team member who disagrees with an idea, and fluently keeping tabs on every teammate in making sure they understand the process they’re through to finalize a presentation. Every time there’s a disagreement amongst the team that gives the possibility of delaying any progress for finishing the preparation for a presentation, you must take on the responsibility to use your leadership skills to order to come to a common ground upon your teammates. What this means is, yourself and your team need to come to a common understanding of what you want altogether for the presentation and build the momentum of finishing goals with that leadership. This will in turn give you a sense of confidence and will put your problem solving skills into action. Remember that in this competition, each teammate must recognize a good skill they have that could be applied to creating a solution. One of your teammates can be very knowledgeable in Economics, another can understand the ropes of Accounting in order to handle the numbers of the solutions, and the other teammates may have insight into social work aspects of your solution. When working under the pressure of 4 hours, it can be easy to stress and not get a lot done. But as I’ve mentioned before, keeping a calm mind and being determined on your goal as well as making sure others are doing the same, is all that matters. Don’t forget, you’re having fun, and this is just an emulation of problem-solving that will give a fresh perspective on applying creativity and quick-paced thinking to a fictional world in preparation for real-world applicable scenarios.

THE FINAL PRODUCT

When your teamwork skills are of use, and the presentation is underway to becoming polished and ready to digest for the panel of judges, there are a couple of things you must keep in mind. For one, be sure to create a Google Drive that is accessible by all of your teammates, with a properly organized set of brainstorming notes put together through either Microsoft Word or Google Docs. Be sure to highlight anything unnecessary and keep tabs on the most important ideas and solutions within your organized documents that will help make your presentation more concise. Always keep tabs on who is using their best skill to use, and always make sure that your research is based on the SpongeBob, Harry Potter, and Marvel themes. You can either create your presentation using Google Slides or PowerPoint, and do not forget to make the final product as attractive as possible. This means good visuals, as well some humor at the beginning of the presentation to break the ice for the judges digesting what you’ve created with your team. Humor can be received through multiple mediums, but the most recommended form of ice-breaking humor are memes that closely related to the fictional problem you want to solve. As with every presentation, preparation through reading and memorizing lines of flash cards are always important, as well as keeping a positive and enthusiastic attitude during the presentation to show your passion for the project. It is always important to remember that you’re having fun, and this competition is meant to help you learn the importance of teamwork, applying problem-solving skills to any scenario (fiction or non-fiction), as well as being in the shoes of a leader and enduring that experience.

CONCLUSION

As a quick summary, teamwork and positivity always wins as long as you are willing to develop those skills as a participant for this fun competition. Keep up a calm mind, and do the best you can to keep the energy levels high throughout the week-long competition.