GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

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

1. Be an Active-level paid member of Educators Rising.
2. Sign up to compete at the national conference and submit any required materials by the deadline. This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference. You must do this by logging into the Educators Rising membership portal and clicking on the Student Resources section.
3. Register to attend the PDK2020 National Conference.

- All individual competitions are open to Educators Rising members in middle school and high school. (Students may or may not be affiliated with an Educators Rising school program.) All team competitions are open to Educators Rising programs in middle school and high school. Please note: middle school will compete with high school. They will not have their own division. Two competitions are open to college-level students. They will compete in their own division.

- All competitors must attend the PDK 2020 National Conference on June 17-21, 2020 in Washington, DC. Competitions will take place on-site on Thursday, June 18 through Saturday, June 20, 2020.

- 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.

- In order to be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues and required materials must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), April 20, 2020. Each competition 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 also must 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 states that offer state-level competitions, the top five places in each competition 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.
GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. (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 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.) This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions.

- For entries in national competitions, competitors must submit or bring to the event all required materials described in the national competition guidelines. Any material 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 download to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Students should bring their own pointing device, if needed.

- Students may enter up to a total of two combined events.

- Teacher leaders may enter up to two students per school in each individual event and one team for team events. All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.

- 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 prior to the conference. Be sure to check these schedules prior to your arrival.

- 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.

- Spectators may not record any competition without prior consent of the competitors and judges.

- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. (For a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as “business casual,” see here: humanresources.about.com/od/workrelationships/a/dress_code.htm.) Points will be deducted from the entrant’s score for failure to follow the stated dress code.
• Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 entries. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each category.
• Entrants grant Phi Delta Kappa International, the sponsoring organization for Educators Rising, the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
• Entrants grant Phi Delta Kappa International, the sponsoring organization for Educators Rising, the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website and EdRising Virtual Campus.
• All source media used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
• All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2019-2020 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
• 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 web, 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.
• Teacher leaders are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a staff member.
• Failure to follow the stated guidelines could result in disqualification of student competing.

ENTRIES WILL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE EDRISING MEMBERSHIP PORTAL (members.pdkintl.org) IN THE 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 Washington, DC!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: FEBRUARY 1, 2020 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME
DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ON-SITE SCHEDULING: APRIL 20, 2020 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 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 April 20 deadline 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 PDK2020 National Conference, which will take place June 17-21 in Washington, DC. 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 on May 18, 2020. 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 in Washington, DC! The top 10 for each competition will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on June 21, 2020 in Washington, DC. 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.