

Storytelling Competition



Storytelling

Preparation

Students will prepare a Performance of no more than 5 minutes in length. This storytelling presentation should focus on a logical outgrowth of actions or events related to the National Finals Topic of Nanotechnology. Strong stories have a connection to research and show clearly how the story relates to the topic, including futuristic and research trends.

Students are encouraged to think creatively and futuristically. Taking conceptual risks is part of the creative thinking process, but these risks may not pay off or may push the boundaries too far. Students should use good judgment and remember that all submitted work should be appropriate for all audiences.

Remember the purpose of the programme

The mission of Future Problem Solving is to develop the ability of young people to design and achieve positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking. In Storytelling, students are encouraged to share a story about a future they might live through and showcase positive possibilities or strategies to overcome challenges. We hope that students tell audiences stories that focus on characters attempting to make a positive change in their world.

Students develop their own stories

Students compete individually, and stories must have a single author. While coaches, teachers, peers, and parents can offer feedback, the student must be the sole creator of the performance.

Set the story 20 – 30 years in the future

Submitted stories, or scenarios, must take place 20-30 years in the future and be written as though the future is the current, present reality for the character(s). Futuristic concepts and trends should be incorporated into the story, but a specific date is not required.

Use appropriate movement

“Acting,” such as crouching, jumping, a character’s dramatic death, running, or elaborate movements are not permitted. A storyteller can use hand gestures and slight movements to enhance their storytelling. Performances that are being recorded for evaluators to review, so any movement that takes the performer out of the camera’s frame may hurt a student’s score.

Watch the time

Students must keep their story under five minutes long. Stories lasting more than 5 minutes may score lower in “Storytelling Technique” and “Development of Story” as their story will not be finished when their time runs out.

Cue Cards and props

Students may use a maximum of 10 cue cards (A6 size) during their performance. At this stage phones can not be used as cue cards. Props, costumes, theatrical makeup, or other materials beyond the use of voice are prohibited.

Recording for competition

Students should prepare their stories to be recorded by a fixed camera. At the beginning of the recording, the student should hold up a card/paper with their competition code as an identifier before starting the Performance. This is not included in the 5-minute time limit.

They may stand or sit in a chair/stool for performances. Stories will be evaluated up to the 5 minute mark. The recording must be continuous, with no cuts, edits, or movements of the camera location. The focus must remain constant with the camera focusing on either the head-and-shoulders or the full-body of the participant.

Senior students competing off-site must be videoed in one take in front of a live audience of at least 10 people. A cell phone is appropriate and the recording must be continuous, with no cuts, edits, or movements of the camera location.

Prepare for a live performance

During live competitions, a timekeeper will signal to participants when only 30 seconds remain. The timekeeper will signal again at the five-minute mark. At five minutes and fifteen seconds, the student will be stopped.

Submission Procedures

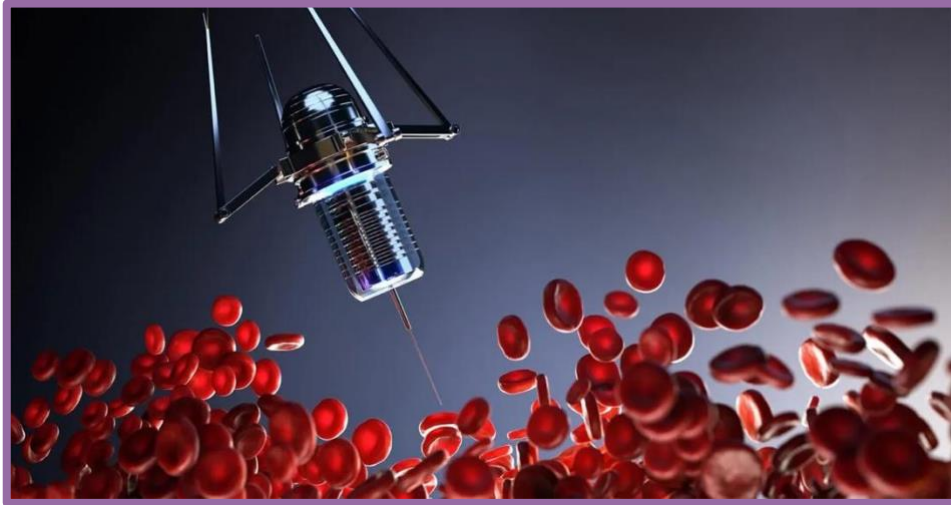
Coaches will be provided with competitor codes. Onsite students will perform their presentation at a time to be advised.

There must be no identifying information in the performance, including the competitor's name or the name of their school. This includes clothing that students wear during their Performance.

If Senior Students are not performing in front of an audience on the day of the National Finals event, then their video must be uploaded **no later than 4pm, Friday 7th November**. Please upload submissions as you did for your qualifying entry.

The Topic for This Year's National Finals Is

NANOTECHNOLOGY



Background

Nanotechnology deals with dimensions and tolerances of less than 100 nanometers. A single strand of human hair, for scale, is typically 100,000 nanometers thick! At this scale, individual atoms of larger materials can be manipulated. Placing atoms as though they were bricks, nanotechnology has the potential to give control over the structure of matter, allowing us to build powerful, yet microscopic substances.

Context

Nanotechnology is widely used in food industries, medicine, energy, automobiles, the environment, electronics, textiles, and cosmetics. Nanotechnology has direct benefits for medicine and the environment, but it may have unintended effects, like all technologies. Nanoparticles of typically unharmed materials, for example, can be toxic if inhaled. Not easily observed, nanotechnology poses risks to security and privacy.

Challenge

What advances for society could new nanotechnology products enable?

How might nanotechnology benefit all sectors of society?

As the technology becomes more commonplace, how can we prepare for the unexpected risks and dangers associated with its use?

Resources

A suggested reading list along with a video featuring a discussion with a Nanotechnology Research Panel can be found at this [link](#), provided by the International Office.

There is a 2025 National Finals Nanotechnology Set available for \$45 plus GST. This is a combined resource featuring the topic specific chapters on Nanotechnology from both the Reading, Research and Resources AND the Topic Activity Units publications.