

# International Business Plan Event, 2007

## Purpose

The purpose of the International Business Plan Event is to provide an opportunity for the participants to

- ◆ apply marketing skills in an international setting
- ◆ prepare a written proposal for a new business venture (a new business or a new product or service of an existing business)

## Procedure

- The project consists of two major parts: the **written document** and the **oral presentation**. The written document will account for 70 points and the oral presentation will account for the remaining 30 of the total 100 points.
- Each event entry will be composed of **one to three members** of the DECA chapter. All participants must present the project to the judge. All participants must respond to questions.
- The body of the written entry must be limited to **30 numbered pages**, including the appendix (if an appendix is attached), but excluding the title page and the table of contents.
- The **Written Event Statement of Assurances** must be signed and submitted with the entry. Do not include it in the page numbering.
- The participants will bring all visual aids to the event briefing. Only approved visual aids may be used during the presentation.
- The oral presentation may be a maximum 15 minutes in length. The first 10 minutes will include an explanation and description of the project followed by 5 minutes for the judge's questions.
- The judge will evaluate the presentation, focusing on the effectiveness of public speaking and presentation skills and how well the participants respond to questions that the judge may ask during the 5 minutes following the presentation.

## Skills Developed

The participants will demonstrate skills described by the performance indicators for general marketing as well as learn/understand the importance of

- communications skills—the ability to exchange information and ideas with others through writing, speaking, reading or listening
- analytical skills—the ability to derive facts from data, findings from facts, conclusions from findings, and recommendations from conclusions
- critical thinking/problem-solving skills
- production skills—the ability to take a concept from an idea and make it real
- teamwork—the ability to be an effective member of a productive group
- the ability to evaluate group presentations
- priorities/time management—the ability to determine priorities and manage time commitments and deadlines
- the basic steps involved in starting a business in an international setting
- the ability to interpret financial statements
- customer needs
- the impact of global cultural differences

Complete lists of performance indicators are available from DECA's Web site, [www.deca.org/celisting.html](http://www.deca.org/celisting.html).

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## Format Guidelines for the Written Entry

Your written entry must follow these specifications. Refer also to the Written Entry Checklist and the Written Entry Evaluation Form.

**Title page.** The first page of the written entry is the title page, which lists the following in this order:

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PLAN EVENT  
 Type of business proposed  
 Name of DECA chapter  
 Name of high school  
 School address  
 City, State/Province, ZIP/Postal Code  
 Names of the participants  
 Date

The title page will *not* be numbered.

**Table of contents.** The table of contents should follow the title page. The Roman numeral of each section, the section title and the page of the section must appear in the table of contents. The table of contents may be single-spaced and may be one or more pages long. The table of contents page(s) will not be numbered.

**Body of the written entry.** The body of the written entry begins with Section I, Executive Summary and continues in the sequence outlined here. The first page of the body is numbered 1 and all following pages are numbered in sequence. Page numbers continue through the bibliography (required) and the appendix (optional).

Follow this outline when you write your entry. Points for each section are shown on the Written Entry Evaluation Form. Each section must be titled, including the bibliography and the appendix.

- I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
One-page description of the project
- II. INTRODUCTION  
The type of business, product or service proposed and a brief description. A brief description of the country proposed for trade, the rationale for selecting the country, identification of existing trade barriers, identification of sources of information (research sources and interviews).
- III. ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SITUATION
  - A. Economic, political and legal analysis of the trading country
    1. Describe the trading country's economic system, economic information important to your proposed business/product/service, the level of foreign investment in that country
    2. Describe the trading country's governmental structure and stability, how the government controls trade and private business
    3. Describe laws and/or governmental agencies that affect your business/product/service [i.e., labor laws, trade laws (U.S.A. and/or Canada and foreign)]
  - B. Trade area and cultural analysis
    1. Geographic and demographic information, important customs and traditions, other pertinent cultural information, competitive advantages and disadvantages of the proposed product and/or service
    2. Market segment analysis target market (age, income level, population estimate, other specific demographic and economic information) customer buying behavior related to the proposed product and or service
    3. Analysis of the potential location—importance and requirements of each trade document required by the U.S.A. and/or Canada and the country of choice

#### IV. PLANNED OPERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUSINESS/PRODUCT/SERVICE

##### A. Proposed organization

Type of ownership and rationale; advantages/disadvantages of the type of ownership selected; start-up steps to form the business; planned personnel (or functional) needs; proposed staffing to handle managerial, financial, marketing, legal, production (if applicable) functions; proposed organization chart, brief job descriptions, if necessary

##### B. Proposed product/service

1. Details of the product(s)/service(s) to be offered; include potential suppliers, manufacturing plans, inventory policies, if applicable. If the business is a service business, appropriate information about plans to provide the service, including necessary supplies
2. How the product/supplies will be transported to/from the home country; costs, benefits, risks of the transportation method; documents needed to transport the product/supplies

##### C. Proposed strategies

1. Proposed pricing policies, what currency will be used, costs, markups, markdowns, relation to competition, factors that could affect the price of the product (e.g., competition, political conditions, taxes, tariffs, transportation costs)
2. Proposed promotional program, promotional activity(ies), media availability, costs, one-year promotional plan outline

#### V. PLANNED FINANCING

Projected income and expenses (The following are recommended items to be included. You may select the appropriate items for your business.)

##### A. Projected income statements for first year's operation (sales, expenses, profit/loss)

##### B. Projected balance sheet for the end of the first year

##### C. A brief narrative description of the planned growth of the proposed business, including financial resources, needs and a brief three-year plan projection

#### VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### VII. APPENDIX

An appendix is optional. Include in the appendix any exhibits appropriate to the written entry, but not important enough to include in the body; these might include sample questionnaires used, letters sent and received, general background data, etc.

### Checklist Standards

In addition to following the outline above, when preparing your written entry you must observe all of the following rules. The purpose of these rules is to make competition as fair as possible among participants. Refer also to the Written Entry Checklist.

1. The Written Event Statement of Assurances must be signed and submitted with the entry or the entry will receive 15 penalty points.
2. The entry must be submitted in an official DECA written event folio. Folios are available from DECA IMAGES (WEF000). No markings, tape or other material should be attached to the folio. One photocopy or the original typed document must be submitted. Participants may keep a copy for use in the presentation.
3. Sheet protectors may not be used.
4. The body of the written entry must be limited to 30 numbered pages, including the appendix (if an appendix is attached), but excluding the title page and the table of contents page.

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5. The pages must be numbered in sequence, starting with the executive summary and ending with the final page of the appendix. Do not use separate sheets between sections or as title pages for sections.
6. Major content of the written entry must be at least double-spaced (not space-and-a-half). The title page, table of contents, executive summary, bibliography, appendix, footnotes, long quotes (more than three typed lines), material in tables, figures, exhibits, lists, headings, sample letters, forms, etc., may be single-spaced.
7. The entry must be typed/word processed (not handwritten). Only material in exhibits and participant-created artwork, charts and graphs may be handwritten. Handwritten corrections to typed text will be penalized. (Judges will be instructed to ignore attempts to achieve a competitive advantage due to the quality of word-processing equipment available.)
8. All material must be shown on 8½-inch x 11-inch paper. Pages may not fold out to a larger size. No extraneous information may be attached to the pages and tabs may not be used.
9. Decorative artwork or desktop publishing techniques may be used throughout the manual. Photographs in the manual must be scanned and placed as digital files.
10. The entry must follow the sequence outlined. No sections or subsections may be added.
11. The Roman numeral of each section, the section title and the page number of the section must appear in the table of contents.

### **Presentation Guidelines**

- Prior to the presentation, the judge will evaluate the written portion of the entry. The major emphasis of the written entry is on the content. Drawings, illustrations and graphic presentations (where allowed) will be judged for clarity, not artistic value.
- The participants have assumed the roles of trainees for a multinational company. The participants have been assigned the task of investigating and developing a plan to begin a new business venture to either import or export a product and/or service to or from a country of their choice.
- Playing the role of a multinational business executive, the judge will evaluate the written document and then interview the participants, as if he/she were actually going to approve (or disapprove) the proposal.
- The participants will present the plan to the judge in a 15-minute presentation worth 30 points. (See Presentation Judging.)
- The presentation begins immediately after the introduction of the participants to the judge by the adult assistant. Each participant must take part in the presentation.
- The participants will spend not more than 10 minutes, at the beginning of the presentation, describing the plan. Each participant may bring a copy of the written entry or notecards pertaining to the written entry and use as reference during the presentation.
- The judge will spend the remaining 5 minutes questioning the participants. (See Presentation Evaluation Form.) Each participant must respond to at least one question posed by the judge.
- The participants may use as visual aids only display material mounted on not more than three (3) standard-sized posters not to exceed 22 inches by 30 inches each and/or one (1) standard-sized presentation display board not to exceed 36 inches by 48 inches to be placed on chairs or free-standing easels. Participants may use both sides of the posters, but all attachments must fit within the poster dimensions. Only visual aids that can be easily carried to the presentation by the actual participants will be permitted, and the participants themselves must set up the visuals. Participants are allowed to make use of a desktop flip chart presentation easel not to exceed 12 inches by 10 inches. Participants are also allowed to make use of a personal laptop computer and/or a hand-held digital organizer they provide. No set-up time will be allowed. No sound may be used. If participants use a personal computer, they must bring their own battery power pack, as electrical power will NOT be supplied. No other materials may be brought to or used during the presentation by the participants.
- No material of any kind may be passed to the judge.
- If any of these rules are violated, the adult assistant must be notified by the judge.

## Written Entry Judging

Please familiarize yourself with all of the event guidelines before starting to evaluate the written entry. Penalty points (see Written Event Checklist) have already been assessed. The Written Entry Evaluation Form follows the outline shown in the section entitled Guidelines for the Format of the Written Entry, which explains in greater detail what should be discussed in each section. As you read, ask yourself, “Will this work? Is it realistic? Does the writer sound knowledgeable? Is the writer communicating clearly?” Ultimately, you must decide, “Would I lend money to or invest in this person and this proposal?”

The judge should complete the Written Entry Evaluation Form, making sure to

- ◆ place the name and identification number label on the Scantron sheet (unless it has been done for you).
- ◆ fill in the appropriate score for each section.
- ◆ write the score given in the space provided at the right. No score filled in or extended means that the participants will receive a zero for that area.
- ◆ ignore attempts to achieve a competitive advantage due to the quality of word-processing equipment available.
- ◆ double-check to ensure you have scored every category.
- ◆ total your score. The series director will double-check all addition.

A maximum score of “Exceeds Expectations” in any category means that, in your opinion, the information is presented effectively and creatively; nothing more could be expected of an applicant.

A “Meets Expectations” rating means that the information is presented well. Though there may be a few minor problems or omissions, they are not significant. Creativity, however, is not shown to any great degree. A combined total score of 70 or better on the written and presentation sections will earn the participant team DECA’s Certificate of Excellence at the international conference.

A “Below Expectations” score means that the information presented does not meet minimum standards of acceptability.

A “Little/No Value” score means either that some major flaw has been noted that damages the effectiveness of the proposal (this may be a major omission, a serious misstatement, poor writing or any other major flaw) or that the information presented is of no value (does not help the proposal at all).

It may help to go through several entries before actually starting to score the entries. Take notes on a separate sheet of paper if you wish to ask the participant about specific areas of the written entry during the presentation.

## Presentation Judging

Participants will make a 15-minute presentation to you. You are role-playing a multinational business executive. You may refer to the written entry, or to your notes, during the presentation.

During the first 10 minutes of the presentation (after introductions), the participants will describe the proposal and make the request for approval. Allow the participants to complete this portion without interruption, unless you are asked to respond. Each participant must take part in the presentation.

During the final 5 minutes, you may question the participants. At least one question must be addressed to each participant. To ensure fairness, you must ask each participant or group of participants the same three questions (based on the Presentation Evaluation Form):

*(Continued on next page)*

1. one question on analyzing the international business situation
2. one question on planning the operation of the proposed business
3. one question on planning the financing and projecting income and expenses

You should prepare these three questions after you have evaluated the written entries but before the presentation begins.

After asking the three questions, you may ask any other questions that seem appropriate, based on your notes or on the written entry itself (to which you may refer during the presentation).

At the conclusion of the presentation, thank the participants. Then complete the Presentation Evaluation Form, making sure to record a score for all categories. Maximum score for the presentation is 30 points.

We hope you are impressed by the quality of the work of these participants. If you have any suggestions for improving this event, please mention them to your series director.

*We thank you for your help.*

**International Business Plan Event,  
2007**

**Participant(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written Entry  
Evaluation Form**

**I.D. Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please refer to *Format Guidelines for the Written Entry*  
for a more detailed explanation of these items.**

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Little/No Value	Judged Score
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>					
1. One-page description of the project.....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>					
2. The type of business, product and/or service with a description; description of the country; rationale for selecting the country; identification of existing trade barriers; sources of information .....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
<b>ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SITUATION</b>					
Economic, political and legal analysis					
3. Description of the country's economic system .....	5-4	3	2	1-0	_____
4. Description of the country's governmental structure and stability .....	5-4	3	2	1-0	_____
5. Description of the laws affecting the product and/or service .....	5-4	3	2	1-0	_____
Trade area and cultural analysis					
6. Geographic and demographic information, important customs and traditions, other pertinent cultural information, competitive advantages and disadvantages .....	6-5	4	3-2	1-0	_____
7. Market segment analysis .....	6-5	4	3-2	1-0	_____
8. Analysis of the potential location .....	6-5	4	3-2	1-0	_____
<b>PLANNED OPERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUSINESS/PRODUCT/SERVICE</b>					
9. Proposed organization .....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
Proposed product/service(s)					
10. Details of the product/service(s) .....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
11. How the product/service(s) will be transported to/from the home country; documentation.....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
Proposed strategies					
12. Proposed pricing policies .....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
13. Proposed promotional program.....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
<b>PLANNED FINANCING</b>					
14. Projected income and expenses.....	5	4	3-2	1-0	_____
<b>APPEARANCE AND WORD USAGE</b>					
15. Professional layout, neatness, proper grammar, spelling and word usage .....	4	3	2	1-0	_____

**Written Entry Total Points (maximum 70 points):** \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: A B C D E F G H (circle one)

**International Business Plan Event,  
2007**

**Participant(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written Entry  
Presentation Evaluation Form**

**I.D. Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Little/No Value	Judged Score
1. Opening presentation: description of the project; organization, clarity and effectiveness of the presentation .....	7-6	5	4-3-2	1-0	_____
2. Question on the analysis of the international business situation .....	5	4	3-2	1-0	_____
3. Question on the planned operation of the proposed business .....	5	4	3-2	1-0	_____
4. Planned financing, projected income and expenses .....	5	4	3-2	1-0	_____
5. To what extent did the participant(s) demonstrate professional appearance, poise and confidence? .....	4	3	2	1-0	_____
6. Overall performance, presentation technique, effective use of visual aids and participation of all.....	4	3	2	1-0	_____

**Presentation Total Points (maximum 30 points):** \_\_\_\_\_

RECAP: WRITTEN ENTRY (70): \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTATION (30): \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL (100): \_\_\_\_\_

LESS PENALTY POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: A B C D E F G H (*circle one*)