

How to Study for the Roleplay



The DECA Roleplay is the flagship part of any competition. It is the primary stressor for most competitors, but if you prepare well, it can become very natural.

Tips for Success:

1. Determine which Instructional Areas to look at
 - a. **Explanation:** Every roleplay is based on a specific instructional area. The PIs and Case Scenario will be derived from it. An in depth understanding of this Instructional Area and all of it's PIs will be crucial to your understanding of the roleplay. For the **district** competition your instructional area is pre-reported, so you can spend all your time on that one area. At SCDC and ICDC however, this is not the case. But, you can still make a few educated guesses. For example, the Accounting Applications individual event is never going to have Marketing as its instructional area. To make the guess, you can look at the past roleplays in the practice roleplay folder to see which ones are more common
2. Do a practice roleplay with someone to determine strengths and weaknesses
 - a. **Explanation:** It is important to understand your strengths and weaknesses so that you can prepare well. The only way to identify what was easy or hard, is to do a practice roleplay. You can use anyone to help you with a mock roleplay. It can be a parent, an advisor, a chapter officer, or a friend, so long as they give you feedback. After you finish the roleplay, think about what was difficult. Did you not know enough information? Was it hard to prepare in the time limit? Were you and your partner not coordinated? Was speaking to a judge difficult? Practice what you're bad at, and you will improve.

3. STUDY THE PIs

- a. **Explanation:** More than 50% of your roleplay grade is attributed to how well you answered the PIs. If you use the huge PI document, and study every PI in every relevant instructional area, you will be in good shape. This doesn't mean you won't see a new PI pop up, but with the knowledge from the other PIs, you are well equipped to handle it.

4. Develop Chemistry with your Partner

- a. **Explanation:** Your team of two needs to be seamlessly on the same page on the day of competition, and that takes practice. You need to come to understand each other's tendencies under pressure well enough to be able to react to anything together. The moment a team event become two separate presentations, you've lost.

5. Practice, Practice, Practice

- a. **Explanation:** Working with a partner is hard. The only way to develop the mindless connection is by continuously working to build a perfect duo. Roleplay after roleplay after roleplay, eventually you will get to a point where you can finish each others sentences, and that means you are 100% ready.