

THE VIRGINIA SCENE

The Virginia TSA Newsletter

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Getting It Done

As competition season gets closer and closer to becoming a reality, here are a few tips for you when it comes to getting a great finish:

1. Don't Procrastinate!- Ok, I know right off the bat that this tip will most likely not be followed by the majority of people reading this article (including myself). We all will procrastinate on our work, but the key here is to make sure that you don't procrastinate to the extent that you're working until 2 in the morning the day of Regionals. Trust me, that's not a fun position to be in.

2. FOLLOW THE DESIGN BRIEF- It seems simple enough, sure, but sometimes we get lazy and don't pay attention to the brief, which can cost you crucial points. Read the brief, even if it is boring and long, as it is the key between placing in the top three or not placing at all!

3. Have fun!- That is the purpose of these challenges, to challenge (no pun intended) and to inspire you, but also to peak your interest in things that you may not have been interested in before then. After all, you should enjoy whatever you decide to do in this organization.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sashank Sankar

Virginia TSA Sergeant-At-Arms



Want to submit an article? Send it to Reporter Karyn Cumming at broadwaybaby1621@gmail.com to be featured in the next issue!

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'Twas the Night Before Regionals...

'Twas the night before Regionals, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

For all the TSA members were busy at school,
Fixing up their projects and simultaneously trying to look cool,
Pratyusha was testing to make sure her creation would fly,
Abhi and Ram sat, working on Music Production nearby.

When in the library there arose such a clatter,
That all students jumped up to see what was the matter.
The printer had run out of ink, and everyone sank to the ground in despair,
Tanisha and Sashank paced around, both about to swear.

Suddenly Karyn rushed in, holding her laptop,
Upon seeing the chaos, she came to a full stop.
Without saying a word, she turned and walked out,
Leaving everyone to wonder what that was all about.

Shreyas pressed buttons on the printer, but to no avail,
The day ahead was definitely not looking well.
Even Hansika was having trouble with Manufacturing Prototype,
Nobody was feeling the TSA hype tonight.

But in again came Karyn, holding with her,
Not one, but two ink cartridges, and both were full.
All students cheered, and even Mr. Hardy,
But there is only one moral to this story.

Do not wait to work on your projects,
Unless you want a bunch of stress.

Good luck to everyone at Regionals!

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Young
Virginia TSA Member



My Motivation

When someone asks me how long I have been participating in TSA, I normally say three years. Truth is, I only say this to boost up my resume; as while I have been doing TSA for three years, I have only loved it for two. Currently, I am a sophomore in tenth grade. So generally speaking, I started TSA in eighth grade. My friends and I were recommended by our technology teacher to make a videogame of the middle school competition. When we started, we thought it would be very simple; simple as making a random game using scratch. However, it proved to be very difficult.

We went on playing around foolishly for a few months, and nothing happened. We did install a few programs and were able to make some progression. Unfortunately, none of us had the motivation at that time to put forth the needed effort. Eventually, as most would suspect, we dropped out of the challenge with almost nothing accomplished. We were losers, and sadly, we did not care much about it. After this failed attempt at Video Game Design, TSA disappeared from my life. Nonetheless, I guess life always has a way to redeem yourself.

Now, it was my freshmen year in high school and the day of the club fair. I was walking around with some of my friends deciding on what clubs I should sign for. I signed up for quite a few, and my friends signed me up for some too. TSA was one of them. Two weeks later, a friend and I both went to the TSA meeting to see what it was about. At the meeting, we decided that we would give it a shot because there was nothing to lose. So there I went along with my regular business thinking that I would not have to think about TSA much; just as another old club, but that wasn't the case.

There was a TSA meeting every Friday, and the club president, also the state vice president, convinced me to go. I regularly went to the meetings and he told us to sign up for the challenges that we would like to do. As stupid as I was, I signed up for five different challenges in my first year of TSA. Luckily, my president made sure that I cut down my choices and I ended up being in only three: Debating Technological Issues, Extemporaneous Speech, and Digital Video Production. As the weeks trudged on, I never actually started any of my challenges. Finally, two months before regionals, my partner, also one of my best friends convinced me to start working. That was the moment I realized how much work actually is.

My entire life, is based on motivation. If I was motivated, I had the potential to be really good at that subject. Not surprisingly, I was not very motivated at TSA because I knew almost nothing about it. Eventually, the day of regionals came, and my challenges were ready to be

My Motivation (cont.)

submitted. Along with my team, we first submitted our DVP challenge. Then, I did my onsite challenge of extemporaneous, which I thought went decent. And finally, it was time for debate, by far the most nerve racking one as I could not afford to let down my teammate. We had actually practiced more than I could have ever imagined, and I felt that we were ready. So on the site, our hours of preparation all went away with a debate that lasted a measly 15 minutes. We were glad and scared; glad that the challenge was over, and scared because we thought we did not do great. So for the next few hours we waited for the awards ceremony.

The funniest part during that day was the fact that my partner actually left the ceremony because she was not feeling well. So during the ceremony, around 5 p.m., I sat along with the rest of chapter. First, my DVP group had placed third in the region. Then, while I did not place top three in Extemporaneous Speech, I did manage to place top ten. Finally, they called out the debate awards. They called third, and it wasn't us. Next they called second, and it wasn't us.

Finally, they called first place and said, "Henrico High School Team 2." Yes, that was my team. Most people would run up and receive their prize. Again, not surprisingly, I had no idea what team I was as we had three different debate teams in our own school. After a few moments, no one decided to stand one. Eventually, I heard someone behind me say, "Hey, I think that's you." So I stood up in front of the whole crowd and asked, "Wait is that my group?" Luckily, my club president knew it was my group, and told me to come on over. And the moment that I touched that trophy, my perception changed. I realized how hard my friends had worked to get these awards. That moment, I realized how much I actually enjoyed competing in TSA. That moment, I received the motivation I needed to continue TSA, and try to be the best at it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ram Karri

Virginia TSA Member



My Virginia TSA Executive Council Experience

I have served on the Virginia TSA Executive Council as the Valley Region President two different years, and each time I received a greatly rewarding experience. My first year was 2013-2014, and I got to work with a great group of students. At first, I was totally lost, and thought that maybe I had bit off more than I could chew. While the experience was able to build my leadership skills greatly, it was also slightly overwhelming for me.

Because of the amount of stress it cause my sophomore year of high school, I decided to step back the next year, but still served on my regional council. I never realized how much I would miss it. My entire junior year, whenever Leadership Academy, or Technosphere was mentioned, I utterly regretted not being on the Executive Council. Since I wasn't on the Council, I decided to still help with both the Membership and Enterprising Committees in order to stay actively involved in the state association. Once Spring rolled around, I decided to run for Valley Regional President again.

I ended up winning the presidency of the Valley Region for the 2015-2016 school year, and I was beyond excited to be involved in the Executive Council for another year. My TSA career would not have been the same if it wasn't for what the Executive Council has done for me. Being on this Council has given me leadership skills that I wouldn't have been able to get anywhere else, and it has given me the privilege to meet so many wonderful, student leaders. Without this Executive Council experience, I would not have nearly as much motivation to rise to a challenge as I do now. I encourage every TSA member to run for a spot on the Executive Council at least once. The work is definitely worth it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sydney Walker
Virginia TSA Valley Region President



Learning to live in a technical world!

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