

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 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 your notes bad? 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. Practice, Practice, Practice

- a. **Explanation:** The roleplay is weird and different. Nothing you do in school prepares you for spontaneous presentations, so it is justifiably difficult. The only way to make it natural is to do it over and over again until it feels like something you have always known how to do.