



# Competition Corner

## Tips for a successful submission!

March 2021

## Planning your Competition Video!

### Celebrate the Accomplishments!

This year's competition will be like no other. You will not need to rush across a college campus, or load props into a UHaul. There is no STEM Festival or laser light show during closing ceremonies but the lack of fanfare does not make your team's accomplishments any less amazing. Teams have put a lot of time, effort and creativity into these solutions. Think back to that first team meeting... how far they have come. Significant growth happens when hard work and commitment drive our students. Odyssey has helped our students to grow exponentially. Every Odyssey team is a champion because it came together to make something out of nothing. Over the past six-plus months, you have taught your students the value of teamwork. Celebrate their creative problem solving and inspiring theatrics with a [certificate!](#)



### Produce your Video

The Required Video for all teams will include a video of the 8-minute solution plus an additional seven minutes of explanation (15 minutes total). You do not need to produce a single 15 minute video, and are encouraged to

use software like Windows MovieMaker, iMovie or similar video editing software. Teams can create their solution videos in multiple ways, to suit local health guidelines and the safety level which is most comfortable for the team. All teams should be sure to also review the [Virtual Tournament Procedures and Problem Specific Guidelines](#).

The video must begin with someone saying the words "Team Begin", and will conclude any way the team likes. The video is allowed to be recorded by someone not on the team. Non team members may act as stagehands in supporting the team's performance. They may not add to the solution in any other way.

### Don't Forget the Team Sign

Membership signs are not required for team identification during virtual performances, but they are required for scoring in Problem 5 for Style. The membership sign is not required to remain visible throughout the duration.

### Submit the Paperwork

Don't forget to complete and submit the required team paperwork through the separate link in the Members Area.

Need help or have additional questions? Email me at [kkempton@ctom.org](mailto:kkempton@ctom.org).

## Spontaneous Coaching and Tips!

### Practice, Practice, Practice

Be sure to login to the Member's Area of the website and take advantage of the practice Spontaneous Problems. This year all teams will be participating in a verbal spontaneous competition, so practice your responses!

### Helpful Hints

Once the coach clicks the 'Start' button for a spontaneous challenge, your team has 20 minutes to brainstorm and enter the answers. Please note that only the coach has the ability to type and enter the answers. To save time, you can copy / paste answers from the chat section or another document. Team members may want to write down (or type) their own list and then take turns sharing them. Don't forget that you can edit responses up until your time is completed or you click 'submit'. **WARNING!** Clicking the Submit button ends the competition.

### Collaboration is King

In this year's unique format, teams are allowed to talk and brainstorm their best creative answers. Encourage your team to review each answer and think about how it can be improved or enhanced. Is there a pun that can be used? Does a word have double meanings? Is there a way to make the answer rhyme? Remember, creative answers are worth more points than common ones.

### Remember to Reset the Password

After submitting your answers, Coaches should change your password so your team no longer has access to the team information (and does not inadvertently change anything).



### Sample Competition Video

Examples of how to use the additional video submission time to explain various scoring elements:

<https://youtu.be/-apUX0C7uV0>

<https://youtu.be/Ughz7o2ojwY>

<https://youtu.be/LLin78tPaAc>

### Competition Deadlines

deadline for submitting your competition materials is Saturday, March 20th at 5pm.



### CTOM Merchandise!

CTOM Merchandise, including two new 2021 pins, is available to purchase through our e-commerce store. An email with the link was sent separately. The store is open for purchases.

### Photobomb CTOM!

To be considered for inclusion in the Awards Ceremony montage, send your team photos to [photos@ctom.org](mailto:photos@ctom.org). Photos accepted until March 20th!

### Receiving Scores

Once judging is completed, the team will receive and review the scores similar to an in-person tournament. The Head Judge will notify the coach/team contact through email that the scores are available. The team has 48 hours after the email is sent to login and view the scores and any comments from the judges through the Members Area.

Stay tuned for details of our April 17th virtual Award Ceremony, and don't forget to have fun!

CTOM is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to Odyssey of the Mind in CT. Please visit our website at [www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org)

