

ROLEPLAY TOOLKIT

TDM TIPS:

- Consider coordinating outfits.
- Divide speaking time evenly.
- Make sure to budget your time wisely (ex: do not talk the whole time), however this does depend on partnership dynamics.
- Practice a LOT to make sure you know how your dynamic will be during the competition.
- To begin with, brainstorm independently prior to collaborating. This way all parties have the opportunity to voice their opinion on the direction they would like to take the roleplay, prior to discussion. By doing this all members feel as if their ideas are respectively heard
- Approach the roleplay with a general strategy in mind— What ways are you going to engage the judge and “wow” them? What aren’t other people doing?
- Create and polish cues. When is your partner speaking, and how are you transitioning between speakers?
- While your partner is speaking, THE JUDGE CAN STILL SEE YOU (or at least they should)! Consider making minimal nods to show you and your partner are in agreement. Additionally, smile and continue to look enthusiastic!
- The judge does not know if this is your first time recording or your tenth! Do not submit a recording in which you are stuttering, look bored or overall lack motivation. You can always do another take, so make sure your final recording is one you are proud of.

SERIES TIPS:

- When roleplays open, look at them and brainstorm what content you would like to address. Later go back and see if you are lacking any material.
- Relate your roleplay to something you have experienced in your own life
- Think of your roleplay as a conversation and try to connect with your judge on a personal level.
- Immerse yourself in your role!! Sometimes that role is as a worker under your judge, and sometimes it’s as your judge’s boss! So make sure you have a clear understanding of your role and play the part!! And remember: confidence is KEY!
- Periodically step back and reflect on whether there may be better or more creative communication methods available to you
- Maintain a general breadth of knowledge so that you can include interesting information in your presentations when the prompts are released
- Review case studies, industry trends, and keep up with current events!
- Leave some time at the end for a summary and follow up.
- Researching and preparing information ahead of time helps you brainstorm and cut down on wasted prep time during your roleplay. Personally, I try to have at least 10 real-world examples I can use while I'm presenting - that way, if I'm stuck or need to recalibrate my thoughts, I have something to fall back on.
- Find a way to creatively weave together the PIs and the other tasks listed in the scenario, then go beyond that by thinking of any other implications of the situation.

There are so many factors to consider when making business decisions like you do in roleplays, and by identifying new angles not explicitly revealed by the prompt, you will show your deep understanding of the industry and situation

GENERAL PRESENTATION TIPS:

- Try to make eye contact (look directly at the camera)
- Do not read off a script
- Minimize/close unnecessary windows, applications, notifications, and tabs
- Placement of body - try to have your entire face and shoulders/neck
- Sit up straight
- Be confident, and practice thinking on your feet. Pretend as if it's your 4th time meeting the judge not your first.
- It may be tempting to use a teleprompter, memorize your entire presentation, or look at a script, but doing these things may end up hurting you in the long run. It's important to acknowledge that the person judging you behind the screen wants to see the human side of you, not a robot.
- Work on looking directly into the camera to simulate eye contact, research real-world examples you can incorporate in your roleplays, and think of ways you can be creative and set yourself apart. The person watching your video has probably gone through dozens of roleplays. Give them a reason to remember yours.
- Don't be afraid to pause for a moment instead of using a filler word like "um". What sounds in your head like an eternity is actually often only a split second pause for the judge. By avoiding filler words and opting to pause instead, you show your professionalism and careful thinking
- If you ever make a mistake when presenting, don't make it obvious that it is a mistake (like pausing or freezing up). If you can't fix the mistake, it is okay as it is more important to continue with the presentation.

Past ICDC Winner Tips

ZOOM RECORDING TIPS:

- Center yourself within the screen
- Use hand movements!
- Smile!!!
- Practice the submission process beforehand.
- If screen sharing, curate your screen to look as professional as possible (i.e Large font size, close other applications, etc.)
- Try to film in nice lighting (we recommend facing towards a window for the best lighting possible. If it's dark outside, film with a light in front of you so that your face can be easily seen and there are no harsh shadows. Try to adjust your white balance if possible as well.
- Don't script everything out. Try to maintain a conversational tone

- Exaggerate your facial expressions and body movements since it is harder to be engaging online.
- Be sure to sound confident even if you are unsure about what you are saying, and make eye contact with the judges!
- Give the judge some visuals to look at if possible! It creates a more personal experience for the judge, helps you communicate your ideas more clearly, and shows off your creativity!!

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