

## 2025 USAD Online Nationals Technical Information

Please review ALL included instructions regarding the 2025 USAD Online Nationals prior to the practice and actual tests.

Ensure **ALL** the computers your students are using for the essay portion of the competition have newer versions of **Edge** or **Chrome** and ensure your students know to use Edge or Chrome only. Other browsers are not allowed **AND WILL NOT WORK**, including, but not limited to Firefox, Safari and Netscape.

If your school will be on break or vacation, make sure your IT department knows that you will be using the internet and that they should avoid performing system maintenance during the testing window.

If possible, have your IT staff increase the priority of internet traffic to the USAD testing sites listed below.

To make sure everything runs smoothly with the event, you and your IT department need the following information:

- Site address: <http://usadtest.com> and <https://usad.enlyght.com>
- Internet browsers for both essay and objective testing.
  - **Disable all plugins/addons/extensions** before testing.
  - **Known browser extension issue** – If you are using the Chrome HTML Content Blocker, it can cause issues during testing.
- Internet browser for essay testing – Edge or Chrome ONLY. Use current versions.
- Internet browser for objective testing – use a current version of Chrome, Edge, Safari or Firefox.
- Make sure that adequate bandwidth is available during the online competition – 100 Mbps available per 9 member team – the more bandwidth available, the better the testing experience.
- Turn off the sleep/timer on the devices to prevent them from shutting down during the test.

### **Vital Information for Essay Testing:**

**If the all or part of the essay disappears:**

- It is **IMPORTANT** that students **do NOT change prompts at this time**.
- It is **IMPORTANT** for the student to click the **X** to close the browser (not just the tab) **IMMEDIATELY**, then open the browser, log in, enter the activation key and continue. This action should retrieve the essay version that has been saved on the server. Otherwise, when the system auto saves, it can overwrite all or part of the essay, resulting in an incomplete or blank essay.
  - When you click the X, if the browser doesn't close, reboot the computer.
- If a student's computer/testing device dies in the middle of the essay, the browser may auto recover the testing session, bringing the students back into the essay. However, the essay may not be complete or may even be blank. Close the browser **IMMEDIATELY** as mentioned above if it is incomplete or blank. Then open the browser, log in, enter the activation key and continue.

For those using **Chromebooks for essay testing**, touchpad gestures can cause certain reactions (/events/results/responses) to occur. Please Note: Touchpad responses listed below may vary based on the settings selected for that particular Chromebook.

- Swiping left with two fingers can cause you to go back to the previous page. This can clear your essay if you have not pressed the Save button.
- To disable, navigate to **chrome://flags/#overscroll-history-navigation**. Then change Over scroll history navigation from Simple to Disable.
- Pressing the Refresh key may cause you to lose part or all of your essay.
- Certain gestures, such as clicking with two fingers, can cause the Copy/Paste warning message to pop-up. Students should click the Ok button to resume the essay.

If you are using guest network access at another location:

- The guest network needs to allow access to the sites listed above.
- If you are bringing a device (laptop) to a host location, there may be settings on your device that block access to the website through a different network.

Please note: If using an older monitor or small laptop, the timing bar may disappear while typing your essay. The timing bar stays at the top of the monitor if the monitor is set for 1024 x 768 as a minimum height requirement. If using a larger monitor, the timing bar will appear and stay at the top of the screen.

**It is IMPORTANT the proctor and their students test the competition site to ensure that everything is working correctly (i.e., hardware, usernames, passwords, etc.).** Students **must** take a practice essay and an objective test to familiarize themselves with the process.

- During the practice, they must use their usernames and passwords assigned for the national competition.
- **It is important that all teams conduct the practice on the machines they will be using and at the competition location.**
- **Essay and objective practice tests need to be taken using the full allotted time and completed as if they were taking the live test.**
  - When participating in the essay practice, students need to select the prompt, type, and save.

Students are **not allowed** to open additional browsers, tabs, or programs on your device during the entire testing session and this applies until you are officially excused for a scheduled break.