

Prosthetic Arm

LEVEL:	Grades 6 and 7/8
TYPE OF CONTEST:	Team
COMPOSITION OF TEAM:	2-3 students per team
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	Preliminary – As determined by your local MESA Center Regional – 1 for 6 th Grade; 1 for 7 th /8 th Grade per Center
SPONSOR:	Ben Louie, Associate Director, USC MSP Cathy Douglas, Associate Director, UCLA MSP

OVERVIEW: Students will design, construct, and operate a simulated prosthetic arm that can accurately throw as many ping pong balls into the *Target Zone* as fast as possible. **Participation logistics, limits, and competition facilities may vary by host site. Advisors and students are responsible for verifying this information with their center director.**

An Engineering Lab Book is a required component of this competition. The purpose of the Engineering Lab Book is for students to closely follow the practices of an engineer in the completion of their MESA Day project. The Engineering Lab Book will encourage students to take a purposeful and sustained approach to building their devices. MESA projects are not designed to be completed in a single class period or day, but to be the result of thoughtful research, planning, analysis and evaluation. The notebook should provide a written record of the thought and insight that a student put into their project, from initial ideas to the final completed project.

MATERIALS: For the device, all materials are legal with the exception of hazardous materials. There are no cost limitations; however, awards will be given to the most innovative designs utilizing low-cost materials.

For the Engineering Lab Book, there are three format options for lab book submittals: Electronic Lab Book, Printed/Written Pages or Standard Lab Book. Please check with your local center director for the format required for your preliminary event. Electronic submissions will be required at the Regional/State level.

The Host Center will provide the following:

- 12 – ping pong balls (Oriental Trading Item #: IN-51/201 or similar)
- 1 – Homer All-Purpose Bucket (Home Depot Model # 05GLHD2 or similar)

- “Skee Ball” *Target Zone* used in previous year competition of circles taped to floor)

GENERAL RULES:

- 1) The students’ full name, school name, grade and MESA Center must be clearly labeled on the device. A 10% penalty in the score will be assessed for failing to properly label.
- 2) The device must have at least two artificial fingers. These fingers:
 - a. MUST open and close. At least two fingers are required to move.
 - b. MUST grab and release the ping pong ball. Team member may NOT use any other part of the prosthesis or parts of his/her own hand, wrist or arm to grab and release the ping pong ball.
- 3) The device must NOT be controlled or operated by either of the team member’s fingers, hands, or wrists.
- 4) In order to simulate an amputated arm, participating team member must have his/her wrist, hand, and fingers immobilized during the competition. The team will determine own method for immobilization.
- 5) The device (i.e. artificial fingers) may only grab and release ONE ping pong ball at a time.
 - a. A ping pong ball that is dropped outside the bucket inside the boundaries of the *Working Area* must be grabbed by the artificial fingers and released back into the bucket before attempting to throw the dropped ping pong ball.
 - b. Ping pong balls outside of the *Working Area* are out of play and may NOT be retrieved.
- 6) No part of the device may cross the *Launch Line* when throwing a ping pong ball.
- 7) During the trial, the team member may use his/her unencumbered hand to hold and move the bucket, but the bottom must remain in contact with the floor and within the defined *Working Area* at all times.
- 8) Lab books are meant to clearly demonstrate and illustrate evidence of the application of the Engineering Design Process in the MESA project.

The Engineering Lab Book must be properly labeled (names, school, center, grade level, etc.) and contain and cover the following sections using the template provided:

1. IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM (at least 2 sentences for each question)

State what is the challenge being worked on? What are the limits/constraints? How do you think you can you solve it?

2. EXPLORE

Find out what others have done (research). Clearly list at least 5 sources (web pages, books, etc.). Identify (cite) and describe them.

3. DESIGN

Brainstorm ideas (at least 3 ideas) and record them. Each idea should be represented by a sketch or drawing.

- i. One sketch should be of the anatomy of the human arm and the other sketches of the device. These sketches MUST be hand-drawn or student’s original computer-generated. Sketches should indicate a progression in the thinking and design of the device, and be detailed. Sketches must be no smaller than one page, and can either be drawn on the lab book page directly or attached.
- ii. The sketch of the anatomy of the human arm AND the sketches of the device should include the following eight required and correctly labeled structures:
 - Radius/Ulna
 - Flexor Carpi Ulnaris

- Radiocarpal Joint
- Carpus
- Carpometacarpal Joint
- Metacarpus
- Phalanges
- Tendons

Select one idea and create a plan (at least 5 sentences) to build a prototype from. Generate a list of materials for your prototype. Table should list all materials utilized for the above eight required structures.

Sample Materials Table

Structure	Material
Radius/Ulna	Mailing Tube
Flexor Carpi Ulnaris	Bungee cord
Radiocarpal Joint	Hinge

4. CREATE

Using your plan, build your prototype. Include a picture of the actual project prototype.

5. TRY IT OUT

Test your idea/prototype. Attempt at least 3 trials/attempts of your test. Measure the results of your test (by project performance criteria). Provide evidence of the use and application of at least 2 appropriate mathematical concepts in your tests. This section must include the calculations for both the following:

- Calculate how much work is done by the artificial fingers in grabbing an object by using $W = Fd$.
- Calculate the grab and release speed of the artificial fingers by using $d = rt$.

6. MAKE IT BETTER

Describe how you can make the project better and what modifications you will be making (at least 5 ways you can improve project). Build and prepare competition ready project. Include a picture.

JUDGING:

- 1) Devices will be checked for specifications prior to the start of the competition. If devices are disqualified during the specification check, design changes will not be allowed.
- 2) Repairs are only allowed with duplicate parts and materials.
- 3) Each device will be allowed two (2) non-consecutive trials.
- 4) At the beginning of each trial, team member must demonstrate immobilization (see Rule 4).
- 5) Each device must be ready when called or team will forfeit that trial.
- 6) Each team will be given up to 60 seconds to prepare, attach, and demonstrate prosthetic arm, to place and prepare ping pong balls inside the bucket, and to place bucket anywhere inside *Working Area*. If at the end of the 60 seconds the team is not ready, the trial will be declared a mistrial and this process will be repeated for the second trial.
- 7) The judge will give the start order and begin the timer.
- 8) The team member will enter the *Working Area* and will have a maximum of 1 minute (60 seconds) to grab and release each of the 12 ping pong balls. The judge will notify the team when 30 seconds, 20 seconds, and 10 seconds remain.
- 9) The judge(s) will count the number of ping pong balls as they initially land (i.e. first impact with a surface) inside each scoring zone.
 - a. Points will be given for balls landing inside the initial scoring zone and NOT for bouncing into subsequent scoring zones.
 - b. NO points will be given for balls initially landing outside *Target Zone* and then bouncing into a scoring zone.

- 10) The judge will stop the timer when the last ping pong ball has been thrown. Or, the judge will call “time” after one minute has passed.
 - a. The judge will record the time needed to complete the trial.

SCORING:

- 1) Team points-to-time ratio = total points divided by trial time in seconds (00.00)
 - a. Points for each scoring zone (maximum of 1200 points)
 - i. 30 point zone = circle 75 cm diameter (see diagram below)
 - ii. 60 point zone = circle 30 cm diameter
 - iii. 80 point zone = circle 25 cm diameter
 - iv. 100 point zone = circle 15 cm diameter
 - b. Time needed to complete trial (maximum of 60.00 seconds)
- 2) Maximum of 4 points awarded for two sketches and materials table
- 3) Final Score = best points-to-time ratio plus (+) sketches/table points
 - a. The best points-to-time ratio of the two trials will be used
- 4) A deduction of 20% of the final score will be assessed for an incomplete Engineering Lab Book and a 50% deduction will be assessed for a missing Engineering Lab Book.

AWARDS:

- Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place based on the greatest Grand Total Score.
- Ribbons will be awarded for Innovative Engineering Design utilizing low-cost materials.
- Only teams placing in the Total Score category will advance to Regional MESA Day.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDIX:

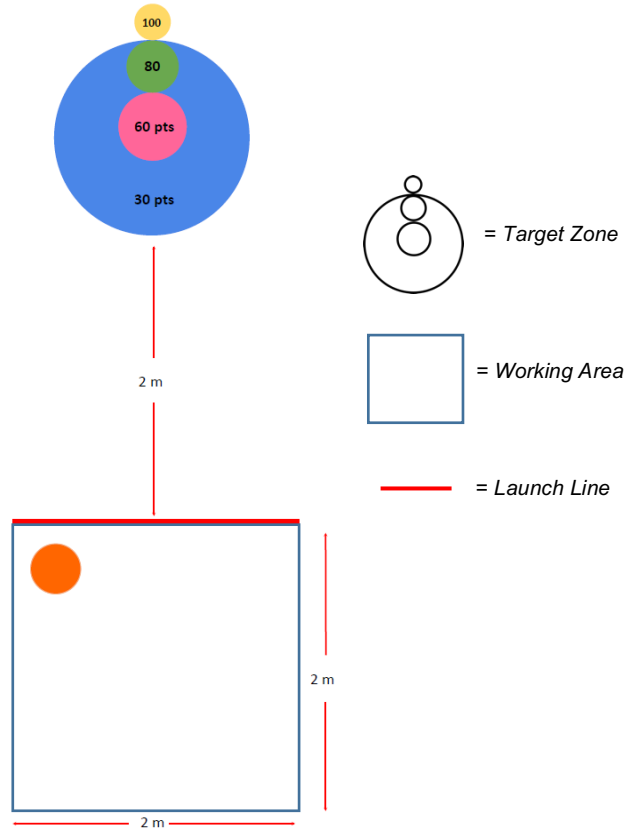
- Competition Area Specifications
- Equipment
- Inspection & Score Sheet for Prosthetic Arm
- Engineering Lab Book Requirement Rubric
- Skee Ball *Target Zone* form previous year competition or flat target taped to floor

Competition Area Specifications

- A 2 meter square will be marked as the *Working Area*. Only the team member actively participating during the task will be permitted inside the *Working Area*.
- One edge will be designated the *Launch Line*.
- The *Target Zone* is the “Skee Ball” setup indicated in the diagram. Target Zone diagram is attached to rules.

Equipment

- 12 – ping pong balls per trial (recommend additional ping pong balls as replacements) www.orientaltrading.com (Table Tennis Balls Item #: IN-51/201 or equivalent)
- 1 – Plastic Homer’s All-Purpose Bucket (Model # 05GLHD2 or equivalent)
- “Skee Ball” *Target Zone* used in previous year competition or target taped to ground (see attached target diagram for printing)
- Measuring tape
- Masking tape to outline the *Working Area*
- 1 stop watch to record trial time



INSPECTION AND SCORE SHEET FOR PROSTHETIC ARM

Middle School – Grades 6 and 7/8

Copies of this inspection and score sheet will be provided by the MESA Day Host Center.

Student Names: _____ Grade: **6** or **7/8** (circle one)

School: _____ MESA Center: _____

Section below to be completed by Judges

INSPECTION LIST:	YES	NO
Device includes at least two artificial fingers that open and close (at least 2 fingers are required to move).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fingers grab and release ping pong balls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Device not controlled by fingers, hands, or wrists of either hand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Team has demonstrated immobilization of the fingers, hand, and wrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Device labeled properly (students’ full name, school name, grade and MESA Center)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Innovative Engineering Design (ranking – 1, 2, 3, etc.): _____

SKETCHES AND MATERIALS TABLE

Structure	Material Listed 0.1 points	Sketch of Arm Anatomy		Sketch of Final Device		Sub Total
		Present 0.1 points	Correctly Labeled 0.1 points	Present 0.1 points	Correctly Labeled 0.1 points	
Radius/Ulna						
Flexor Carpi Ulnaris						
Radiocarpal Joint						
Carpus						
Carpometacarpal Joint						
Metacarpus						
Phalanges						
Tendons						
TOTAL (maximum 4 points)						

TRIAL 1

Score	30 pt. Zone	60 pt. Zone	80 pt. Zone	100 pt. Zone	Total Points
# Ping Pong Balls					
Total Zone Points <small>(zone pts x # ping pong balls)</small>					=
Trial Time (00.00 secs)					
Zone Points/Time Ratio					
Mistrial Reason:					

TRIAL 2

Score	30 pt. Zone	60 pt. Zone	80 pt. Zone	100 pt. Zone	Total Points
# Ping Pong Balls					
Total Zone Points <small>(zone pts x # ping pong balls)</small>					=
Trial Time (00.00 secs)					
Zone Points/Time Ratio					
Mistrial Reason:					

Final Score (best of two trials + Sketches/Materials Table Points) _____

Device Labeling Penalty (10% of Final Score) - _____

Engineering Lab Book Penalty (20% or 50 % of Final Score) - _____

GRAND TOTAL SCORE _____

