

Today we experience another wonderful year of the Giant Tech Prep Expo that is held at COS. The expo is a series of thirty-three contrasting competitions that range from welding to salad preparation. Prizes are awarded for the top three in each category. Students from different schools come to compete.

Students enter in the field in which they feel they have the most expertise. First place prize for all areas is \$50.

Throughout the courtyards of the campus, booths have been set up where you can learn more information about different areas of interest like the expo itself, the army, marines, or highway patrol. You may also purchase items such as food or even clothes.

The competition portion lasts about two hours. Some feel the pressure while others are excited about this opportunity.

There is a difference in the emotional response by some that are competing here today.

Candy Tinoco, a senior from Tulare Union, and an aspiring photographer; is here today competing in the area of photojournalism. Their task was to take eight pictures showing how the Tech Prep Expo can be helpful in career preparation. "I feel pressured not by the time but by my assignment itself." "I want to do my absolute best, but it is hard knowing exactly what to take pictures of."

When asked if this experience would be helpful for the future, Candy responded, "This is an amazing experience. It is set up so we are able to feel as if we are on a real assignment. Just going out and noticing our surroundings is helpful. And our time limit is like our deadline."

Other competitors in the photojournalism category have a different mind set about the limitations and regulations of their assignment.

Junior from Hanford West, Jade Maderos feels as if taking only eight pictures is simply not enough. "My passion is photography and I'm thrilled to be able to compete at the Expo today." "My goal is just to do my best. To do that, I'm going to focus on shooting people that have great emotions on their faces and are going to be doing something in the frame."

The competition may seem fun and exciting to some, but not all that are here are here to compete. Some of us are just along for the ride.

Adriana Nunez, a senior from Tulare Union is here just to experience it. She finds it very interesting and loves the booths. Her favorite so far has been the clothing booth where in-style clothing is being sold for a cheap price.

The type of experience she is gaining is one of a spectator and is enjoying it greatly.

Whether we are here to compete, or here to spectate, this is an extraordinary event in which we are all lucky to attend. The pressures are high and competition is tough, but the experience gained is greater than any of the rest.