



Laugh Attack – Proposal Details

Concept

Laugh Attack is a proposed multi-school high school comedy festival in which students from four area high schools compete in a congenial, community-oriented showcase of comedic talent. While friendly, individual schools have hosted comedy events, the proposal argues that a structured, inter-school comedy festival of this type appears to be a unique concept with the potential to become an annual tradition.



Background

The author cites an intra-school comedy competition his daughter participated in as a day student at The Stony Brook School, an international boarding school in Stony Brook, New York, stating it was an unforgettable experience. An annual competition, some parents flew in from Europe and Asia to attend the SRO performance. He also cites a recent Houston Chronicle article about Houston students performing at The Riot Comedy Festival after participating in the "Haha for Hope" program. Inspired by that success—and drawing upon careers in education, entertainment, journalism, and web application development—the author hopes to create an innovative event that combines performance, education, and community engagement.

Purpose

The festival is designed to:

Encourage creativity and public speaking.

Give students a platform to perform comedy.

Foster friendships among students from different schools.

Create a positive, entertaining community event.



Opportunities

Host initial event and invite three participating schools

Host subsequent events on annual basis

Invite schools from other metro areas if desired

Rotate hosting among participating schools

Event Structure

Four participating high schools

Approximately two-hour evening program

Four competitive categories with four performances in each

Five-minute performances by soloists, duets, or trios

Category and overall awards presented at conclusion of show



Venue

Large Auditorium or arena



Photo Source: Houston Chronicle, April 5, 2026

Possible Competition Categories

Categories could be organized by:

Stand-up

Slapstick

Parody

Impersonation



Visual gags

Or alternatively by:

Solo

Duet

Trio

Performances could also be divided between:

Original material

Classic or published comedic pieces

The organizing committee would determine the final format.

Organization

Appoint overall project manager from hosting school

Each school appoints a performing arts representative to:

Plan the event

Establish rules and categories



Serve as judges

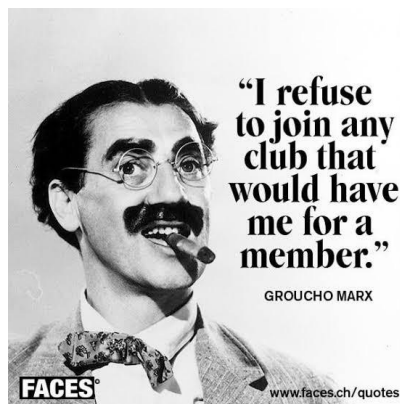
Judges cannot vote for contestants from their own schools.

Pre-Show Experience

A one-hour mixer brings contestants and judges together before the show, featuring refreshments and music to encourage camaraderie.

The
emphasis is on celebration and shared enthusiasm rather than
intense
competition.

Setting



Just inside the entrance, stands a large-screen monitor playing a collection of classic comedy clips from Charlie Chaplan to Groucho Marx to Johnny Carson to contemporary stand-ups. Each segment is brief and quick to the punchline.



LAUGH ATTACK!

Inside the auditorium, situated above the stage, is a neon display or a 3D hologram projecting the event title. Audio environment consists of sound effects and short musical riffs enhance the performance.

Hospitality

At the event, students from hosting school greet visitors merrily, hand out programs, and answer questions. In the spirit of the evening they are dressed in zany get-ups, such as clown costumes and the like

Role of the Emcee



The emcee (or dual hosts) is central to the event by:
Introducing contestants with humorous anecdotes

Engaging in humorous repartee with contestants, co-host and judges



Keeping energy high

Encouraging audience participation

Providing entertaining transitions throughout the show

Judging

After each performance, judges offer brief, constructive comments similar to television talent competitions such as American Idol, The Voice, or America's Got Talent.

Winners are announced after each category, followed by an overall school champion.

Awards



Suggested prizes include:

\$100 for each category winner

Additional \$100 for "Best in Show" performance



A humorous trophy for the winning school

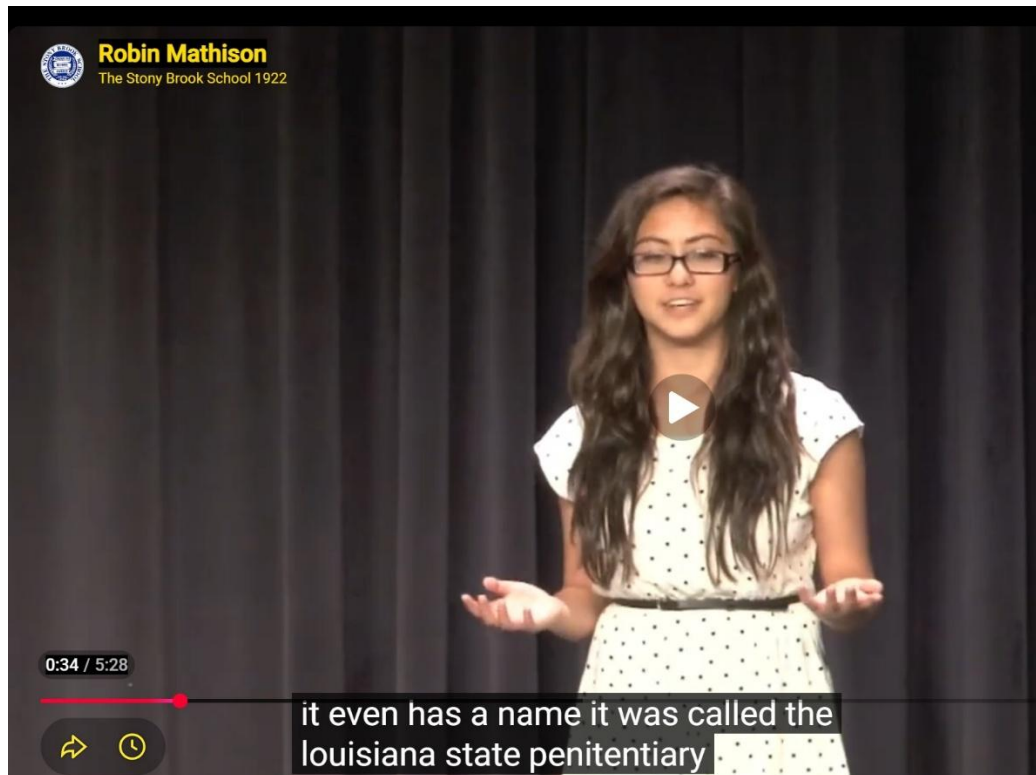
Branding Possibilities

Students could design the festival materials as part of a graphic design

project, with both print and digital versions—including the possibility of animated branding for promotional use. Students can write press releases in journalism class, build web pages in digital design class, create pitches to potential sponsors in business class, record the performances as a film class project. A printed program can be designed as desktop publishing project



Publicity



Appoint an event spokesperson to be available for interviews,
podcasts, appearances on local media

Issue digital press releases

Embed preview clips taken from skits into releases

Invite local press, radio and television out to the show

Build dedicated web pages containing preview clips

Film performances and post on web page, YouTube and other social
media platforms



Sponsorship Possibilities



Seek material support and tie-ins from area businesses and regional marketing divisions of chain stores and consumer products

Seek education grants from government and private foundations

Seek affiliations with local comedians and comedy clubs



Overall Assessment

The proposal presents “Laugh Attack” as more than a talent show—it envisions a recurring educational and community event that celebrates humor, performance, creativity, and collaboration. The emphasis is intentionally less on competition than on giving students a memorable experience while building school spirit and strengthening connections among local performing arts programs. If successfully launched, the festival could become a distinctive annual tradition and potentially serve as a model for similar events in other regions.

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Chris Mathison

Pearland, Texas

Contact: 832-914-2015

chrismathison@att.net

<https://cmathison.com/>