



Extemporaneous Speaking (National-Level Contest)

General Regulations

See General Regulations, pages 2–6.

Purpose

To evaluate each contestant's ability to give a speech on an assigned topic with a minimum of advance preparation

Clothing Requirement

SkillsUSA official attire or clothing that is appropriate for an interview should be worn.

Eligibility

Open to active SkillsUSA members

Exhibit of Entries

Observers will be allowed to hear the speeches in the presentation room, provided space is available. No talking or gesturing will be permitted. No observers will be allowed in the assembly or preparation room. No one will be permitted to enter or leave the presentation while a contestant is speaking. **Note:** No photographic devices will be allowed in the contest room.

Equipment and Materials

1. Supplied by the technical committee:

- a. Reference materials: *SkillsUSA Leadership Handbook*, *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, and *Roget's Thesaurus*
- b. Blank 3"x 5" cards
- c. Copies of selected speech topic in sealed plain envelopes
- d. Stopwatches
- e. Time cards
- f. Fifteen pads of white, ruled paper
- g. All necessary information and materials for contest officials

2. Supplied by the contestant:

- a. One-page, typewritten résumé
- b. No. 2 pencils
- c. Pens

Scope of the Contest

1. Contestants should prepare for extemporaneous speaking by developing these competencies:
 - a. Demonstrate good grooming in dress and personal hygiene.
 - b. Practice elements of informal conversation.
 - c. Prepare a three- to five-minute speech or answer to a question with no more than five minutes preparation.
 - d. Demonstrate an effective and pleasing delivery style.
 - e. Effectively use illustrations and examples.
 - f. Pronounce words in a clear, understandable manner.
 - g. Demonstrate good platform deportment and personal confidence.
 - h. Organize speech material in a logical and coherent manner.
 - i. Effectively vary voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.
2. Contestants will be assigned a number and will be identified by that number.
3. The contest officials will select a speech topic based upon material in the latest *SkillsUSA Leadership Handbook*. All contestants will be assigned the same topic.