



Prepared Speech (National-Level Contest)

General Regulations

See General Regulations, pages 2–6.

Purpose

To evaluate each contestant's ability to prepare and present clearly and effectively a series of thoughts relating to a central theme

Clothing Requirement

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

Eligibility

Open to active SkillsUSA members

Observer Rule

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 area. No member of the audience will be permitted to enter or leave the demonstration room while a contestant is speaking. No cameras, video recorders, or tape recorders will be allowed by members of the audience.

Equipment and Materials

1. **Supplied by the technical committee:**
 - a. Stopwatch
 - b. Time cards
 - c. All necessary information and materials for contest officials
2. **Supplied by the contestant:**
 - a. One-page, typewritten résumé

Scope of the Contest

1. Contestants should prepare for public speaking by developing the following competencies:
 - a. Make a formal introduction.
 - b. Demonstrate good grooming in dress and personal hygiene.
 - c. Practice elements of informal conversation.
 - d. Prepare a presentation on a given topic for a specific time.
 - e. Demonstrate an effective and pleasing delivery style.
 - f. Effectively use verbal illustrations and examples.
 - g. Pronounce words in a clear and understandable manner.
 - h. Demonstrate good platform deportment and personal confidence.
 - k. Organize speech material in a logical and coherent manner.
 - l. Effectively vary voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.
2. The topic for the prepared speech will be established by SkillsUSA and will be announced to the state associations by September 1.
3. The speech shall be five-to-seven minutes in length. **Penalty:** Five points will be deducted for each 30 seconds or fraction thereof under five minutes or for each 30 seconds or fraction thereof over seven minutes. Time will be started when the speech begins. The timer will signal the speaker at five minutes and at seven minutes. The contestant will be permitted to use a watch or clock.
4. Contestants will not mention their name, school, or city. A ten-point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.

Rating Sheet

Please refer to Appendix A for the "Prepared Speech Rating Sheet."