

PREPARED SPEECH (VIRTUAL)



PURPOSE

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

First, download and review the General Regulations at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to active SkillsUSA members.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Class A: SkillsUSA Attire:

- Red SkillsUSA blazer, windbreaker or sweater, or black or red SkillsUSA jacket.
- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie), white blouse (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area or the blazer, sweater, windbreaker or jacket.
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose).
- Black dress shoes.

Contest Clothing Notes (Apply ONLY to Virtual Competitions):

- Official SkillsUSA Competition Clothing recommended but NOT required.
- Contestant clothing options include the following:
 - Official Competition Clothing.
 - Trade Appropriate Clothing.
 - Professional Dress.
 - Business Casual.
- Clothing must meet industry safety standards.
- No identification of the contestant, school or state is allowed on clothing.

- No offensive, vulgar or inappropriate images or text are allowed on contestants clothing.
- No shorts or sleeveless shirts are allowed.
- Skirts must be at least knee-length.
- Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by contestant to meet all state, local and school requirements due to COVID-19.

These regulations refer to clothing items that are pictured and described at: www.skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call 1-888-501-2183.

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 audio recorders will be allowed by members of the audience.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
 - a. Stopwatch
 - b. Time cards
2. Supplied by the contestant:
 - a. Computer with high speed internet capability and camera to use applications such as Zoom and Teams, etc. The minimum recommended internet bandwidth speeds for joining Zoom meetings, accessing on-demand curriculum and other online operations is 2.0 Mbps up and down. You can test your current internet speeds by following this link: <https://www.speedtest.net/>. Allow the page to load and click on GO.
 - b. A secondary camera(s) may be required to provide judges with the ability to view contestants from different angles. Additional camera(s) requirements will be located on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

- c. A contest Proctor will be required to be on site to assist judges. A local industry expert is preferred to serve as the Proctor and shall not be an individual that has been involved with the training of the contestant(s). The Proctor will serve as the onsite “hands and eyes” for the judges. Proctor will follow instructions from the judges for safety and operations related to the competition. Proctor may be asked by judges to perform several tasks such as operating a portable camera to show specific components or steps, measure parts, or any task that will provide judges with information needed to assist in accurate scoring of the contestant’s work or presentation. However, the Proctor shall not serve as a judge nor have any influence in contestant scores.
- d. The contestant’s instructor or advisor shall be on site to observe all competition activities to ensure a safe and healthy competition experience for all participants. That instructor or advisor will not be allowed to interact or interfere with the competitor unless a safety issue arises that requires interaction. Any other support or interaction between the contestant and the instructor/advisor will result in disqualification.
- e. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit an electronic copy to the technical committee chair at least seven (7) days in advance of the competition. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Instructions for submission of the electronic résumé copy will be provided on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the SkillsUSA website at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

ARRANGEMENT OF VIRTUAL ROOMS

1. The contestant must set up virtual meeting rooms space to accommodate the presentation. Room must include a speaker’s stand (lectern), facing the camera (judges) for the presentation time.
2. Contestants will be placed in a holding room upon entering virtual meeting room.
3. Contestants will be moved a virtual presentation room at pre-assigned time.

SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

Knowledge Performance

There is no written knowledge test required for this contest. Contestants’ knowledge will be demonstrated through performance demonstration.

Skill Performance

This contest assesses public speaking skills through delivery of a five- to seven-minute speech.

Contest Guidelines

1. The topic for the prepared speech will be established by SkillsUSA and will be announced to the state associations by Sept. 1 for the following year.
2. The speech will 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.
3. Time limit: 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. No visual aids, props, notes and/or notecards will be permitted.
5. Contestants will not mention their name, school, city or state. A five-point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.
6. Contestants may submit one typewritten electronic copy of the speech to the technical committee prior to the debriefing meeting. Include the name of the training program, institution name, contestant’s name, address, phone number and the speech title.

Instructions for submission of all electronic documents will be provided on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

This speech may be used in part or in whole in SkillsUSA publications throughout the year. Credit will be given to the contestant, instructor and the school.

7. The following judging criteria will be used:
 - a. Opening — Has a strong, clear opening
 - b. Voice — Voice is well modulated and controlled, and carries the rhythm of the speech
 - c. Platform deportment — Speaker is poised and demonstrates good control of movement
 - d. Organization — Speech is well organized, and the organization can be easily followed
 - e. Mechanics — Proper grammar is used and diction is clear
 - f. Closing — Closing provides a clear and solid conclusion and summary of the speech
 - g. Effectiveness — Assigned topic is covered, and the purpose of the speech is clear and achieved
 - h. Timing — Speech falls within the five-to seven-minute contest requirement
 - i. Clothing requirement — Clothing meets contest requirements

Standards and Competencies

PS 1.0 — Design and write an effective presentation based upon the designed theme

- 1.1 Prepare a presentation on a given topic for a specific time
- 1.2 Choose logical patterns of organization (e.g., chronological, topical, cause and effect) to inform and persuade

PS 2.0 — Deliver the presentation in a professional manner, employing the use of verbal and nonverbal delivery techniques

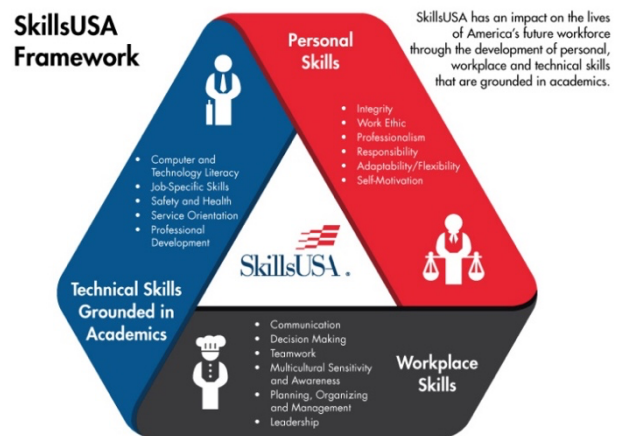
- 2.1 Demonstrate an effective and pleasing delivery style
- 2.2 Effectively use verbal illustrations and examples
- 2.3 Make a formal and effective introduction to the speech

- 2.4 Use a variety of verbal techniques including: modulation of voice, changing volume, varied inflection, modifying tempo and verbal enthusiasm
- 2.5 Demonstrate poise and self-control while presenting
- 2.6 Demonstrate good platform development and personal confidence
- 2.7 Communicate the primary points of the speech in a compact and complete manner
- 2.8 Tie organizational elements together with an effective ending
- 2.9 Complete the speech within the time limits set by contest requirements

PS 3.0 — Wear appropriate clothing for the national contest

- 3.1 Display clothing that meets national standards for competition
- 3.2 Demonstrate good grooming in dress and personal hygiene

PS 4.0 — SkillsUSA Framework



The SkillsUSA Framework is used to pinpoint the Essential Elements found in Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics. Students will be expected to display or explain how they used some of these Essential Elements. Please reference the graphic above, as you may be scored on specific elements applied to your project. For more, visit: www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/.

Committee Identified Academic Skills

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this contest.

Math Skills

None Identified

Science Skills

None Identified

Language Arts Skills

- Provide information in oral presentations
- Demonstrate use of verbal communication skills, such as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice
- Demonstrate use of nonverbal communication skills, such as eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information
- Organize and synthesize information for use in written and oral presentations
- Demonstrate narrative writing
- Demonstrate expository writing
- Demonstrate persuasive writing
- Demonstrate informational writing
- Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing

Connections to National Standards

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

Math Standards

None Identified

Source: NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. For more information, visit: www.nctm.org.

Science Standards

Dependent upon topic of speech

Source: McREL compendium of national science standards. To view and search the compendium, visit:

<http://www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>.

Language Arts Standards

- Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to

communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes

- Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information)

Source: IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit: www.ncte.org/standards.