



PREPARED SPEECH

SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

PURPOSE

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

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

ELIGIBILITY

Open to active SkillsUSA members. Each state may send one middle school, one high school, and one college/postsecondary competitor.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Class A: SkillsUSA Official Attire

- Official SkillsUSA red blazer or official SkillsUSA red jacket
- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie or SkillsUSA black tie), white shirt (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area of the blazer, sweater, windbreaker or jacket
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length at minimum)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes

Note: The official SkillsUSA windbreaker, sweater and black Carhartt jacket are no longer available for purchase in the SkillsUSA Store. However, these clothing items are grandfathered in as previous official SkillsUSA clothing and can be worn in SkillsUSA competitions as directed in this document.

Note: Wearing socks or hose is no longer required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern.

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.

Note: Competitors must wear their official competition clothing to the competition orientation meeting.

OBSERVER RULE

Observers are allowed in the presentation area if space is available. No talking or gesturing is permitted. No member of the audience is permitted to enter or leave the presentation area while a competitor is speaking. No cameras, cellphones, video recorders, or audio recorders can be used by members of the audience.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
 - a. Stopwatch
 - b. Timecards
2. Supplied by the competitor:
 - a. All competitors must create a one-page resume. See “Resume Requirement” below for guidelines. Middle school students are exempt from the resume requirement.

RESUME REQUIREMENT

Competitors must create a one-page resume to submit online. SkillsUSA national competitors should submit their resume by the deadline published on the competition updates page of our website. The deadline and link for resume submission will be published on <http://updates.skillsusa.org>. Failure to submit a resume will result in a 10-point penalty.

Your resume must be saved as a PDF file type using file name format of “Last Name_First Name.” For example, “Amanda Smith” would save her resume as **Smith_Amanda**. If you need assistance with saving your file as a PDF, visit [the Adobe website](#) for more information.

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

PROHIBITED DEVICES

Cellphones, electronic watches and/or other electronic devices not approved by a competition’s national technical committee are **NOT** allowed in the competition area. Please follow the guidelines in each technical standard for approved exceptions. Technical committee members may also approve exceptions onsite during the SkillsUSA Championships if deemed appropriate.

Penalties for Prohibited Devices

If a competitor's electronic device makes noise or if the competitor is seen using it at any time during the competition, an official report will be documented for review by the Director of the SkillsUSA Championships. If confirmed that the competitor used the device in a manner which compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor's scores may be removed.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

There is no written knowledge test required for this competition. Competitors are required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test. Middle school competitors are exempt from testing requirements.

SKILL PERFORMANCE

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

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. The topic for the prepared speech will be established by SkillsUSA. The current competition theme will be available on the competition updates page on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.
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 (5) minutes, or for each 30 seconds or fraction thereof over seven (7) 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 competitor will be permitted to use a watch or clock.
4. No visual aids, props, notes, and/or notecards will be permitted.
5. Competitors will not mention their name, school, city, or state. A five-point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.
6. Competitors will submit one printed copy of the speech to the technical committee prior to the debriefing meeting. Include the name of the training program, institution name, competitor's name, address, phone number, and the speech title. This speech may be used in part or in whole in SkillsUSA publications throughout the year. Credit will be given to the competitor, 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 competition requirement
 - i. Clothing requirement — Clothing meets competition 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 competition requirements

PS 3.0 — Wear appropriate clothing for the national competition

- 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, as you may be scored on specific elements applied to your speech. For more, visit: www.skillsusa.org/who-we-are/skillsusa-framework/.



COMMITTEE IDENTIFIED ACADEMIC SKILLS

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

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: www2.mcrel.org/compendium/.

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.