



EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING



SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

PURPOSE

To evaluate each competitor's ability to give a speech, with minimal advanced preparation, on an assigned topic.

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

No observers allowed

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
 - a. Reference materials: SkillsUSA Framework Fundamentals: Teaching Strategies for Essential Elements and SkillsUSA Member Handbook
 - b. Blank 3”x5” cards
 - c. Copies of selected speech topic
 - d. Timing devices
 - e. Timecards
 - f. Pencil or pen
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.

ARRANGEMENT OF COMPETITIVE SPACE

1. Preparation area: An area furnished with a chair and a table will be provided for the five-minute preparation time. All materials supplied by the technical committee will be available.
2. Speech presentation area: This area will be furnished with a speaker's stand (lectern) facing the judges.

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 evaluates each competitor's ability to give a speech, with minimal advanced preparation, on an assigned topic. Following a preparation time of five (5) minutes, a three- to five-minute speech will be delivered.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. The technical committee will select a speech topic based upon material in the *SkillsUSA Framework Fundamentals* and *SkillsUSA Member Handbook*. All competitors will be assigned the same topic.
2. Competitors will enter the preparation area, where they will be given a speech topic. Competitors will have five (5) minutes to develop and organize the content of their speech.
3. During preparation time, competitors may consult reference materials supplied in the preparation area and may make notes on 3"x5" cards for use during the speech. Competitors may not take any outlines, notes, or reference materials into the preparation area.
4. The speech shall be at least three (3) minutes in length but shall not exceed five (5) minutes. Penalty: Five (5) points will be deducted for each 30 seconds or fraction thereof under three (3) minutes, or for each 30 seconds or fraction thereof over five (5) minutes.
5. Time limit: Time will be started when the speech begins. The timekeeper will signal the speaker at three (3) minutes, four (4) minutes and five (5) minutes. Competitors will be permitted to use a watch or clock.
6. Competitors will not mention their name, school, city, or state at any time in the presentation room. A five-point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.

STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

ES 1.0 — Design and organize a speech that meets the topical and time requirements as outlined by the technical committee

- 1.1. Prepare a speech on a leadership topic that lasts three to five minutes in length
- 1.2. Organize speech in a logical and coherent manner

ES 2.0 — Deliver the speech in a professional manner meeting the standards outlined by the technical committee

- 2.1. Make an effective introduction to the presentation that clearly identifies the scope of the speech
- 2.2. Demonstrate an effective and pleasing delivery style
- 2.3. Effectively use verbal illustrations and examples
- 2.4. Pronounce words in a clear and understandable manner
- 2.5. Use a variety of verbal techniques, including modulation of voice, changing volume, varied inflection, modifying tempo and verbal enthusiasm
- 2.6. Demonstrate poise and self-control while presenting
- 2.7. Demonstrate good presence and personal confidence
- 2.8. In the body of your speech communicate the primary points of the speech in a compact and complete manner
- 2.9. Tie organizational elements together with an effective ending /closing
- 2.10. Complete the speech within the time limits set by competition requirements

ES 3.0 — Wear appropriate clothing for the national competition

- 3.1. Wear clothing that meets national standards for competition

ES 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 project. 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: word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice
- Demonstrate use of nonverbal communication skills: eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information
- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of informational texts
- Use text structures to aid comprehension
- Identify words and phrases that signal an author's organizational pattern to aid comprehension
- Understand source, viewpoint and purpose of texts
- Organize and synthesize information for use in written and oral presentations
- Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate reference materials

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

None Identified

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 a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
- 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.