SkillsUSA® CHAMPIONSHIPS

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 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 not 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 SkillsUSA Championships Clothing Classifications that are pictured and described at skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about competition uniforms, call the SkillsUSA Store at 888-501-2183.

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

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
   a. Timing devices
   b. Printed timekeeper cards for signaling five (5) minutes and seven (7) minutes.
2. Supplied by the competitor:
   a. All competitors must create and submit online a one-page single sided resume. See "Online Submission Requirements" below for guidelines.

Note: All national competitors must also check for competition-specific updates and/or competitor preparation instructions on the SkillsUSA website at 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.

ONLINE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All SkillsUSA national competitors must submit their one-page single sided resume online. The deadline and link for online submissions will be published on updates.skillsusa.org.
Failure to submit any of the required document(s) listed below by the established deadline will result in a 10-point penalty.

1. One-page single sided resume

Your submission must be saved as PDF file type using the file name format of "Your Last Name_Your First Name_Resume." For example, "Amanda Smith" would save the individual PDF submissions file as:

- Smith_Amanda_Resume

OBSERVER RULE

The technical committee reserves the right to allow or prohibit observers into competition area(s). If allowed, no observer may enter or exit the competition area while a competitor is presenting. Observers are not allowed to talk to or make gestures to competitors. No videotaping or photography is allowed during the competition. All phones and electronic devices must be silenced and put away. The competition staff reserves the right to request any observer to leave if they are perceived as a distraction.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

There is no general knowledge test required in this competition. Competitors are required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test.

SKILL PERFORMANCE

This competition assesses public speaking skills through delivery of a five (5) to seven (7) minute speech.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. Competition orientation
   a. Competitors will be assigned appointment times. Appointments may be randomly pre-assigned by the technical committee or drawn during the competition orientation.
2. Speech
   a. The topic for the prepared speech will be established by SkillsUSA. The theme may be found at skillsusa.org/resources/member-resources/annual-theme/.
   b. The speech should be between five (5) and seven (7) minutes.
   c. Timing starts when the presentation begins.
   d. The timekeeper will signal the speaker at five (5) minutes and seven (7) minutes.
      1.) A penalty of five (5) 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.
   e. Competitors are permitted to use a watch or clock.
   f. No visual aids, props, notes, and/or notecards will be permitted.
   g. The following judging criteria will be used:
      1.) Opening — Has a strong, clear opening
      2.) Voice — Voice is well modulated and controlled and carries the rhythm of the speech
      3.) Platform deportment — Speaker is poised and demonstrates good control of movement
      4.) Organization — Speech is well organized, and the organization can be easily followed
      5.) Mechanics — Proper grammar is used, and diction is clear

6.) Closing — Closing provides a clear and solid conclusion and summary of the speech

7.) Effectiveness — Assigned topic is covered, and the purpose of the speech is clear and achieved

8.) Timing — Speech falls within the five (5) to seven (7) minutes competition requirement

h. Competitors must not mention their name, school, city, or state at any time in the presentation room.

1.) A penalty of five (5) points will be deducted for each occurrence.

i. 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.

STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

PS 1.0 — Plan and develop an effective presentation.
1.1.   Prepare a speech on a leadership topic that lasts three (3) to five (5) minutes in length.
1.2.   Choose logical patterns of organization (e.g., chronological, topical, cause and effect) to inform and persuade.
1.3.   Brainstorm project ideas following a problem-solving process.
1.4.   Identify resources and standards for completing project.
1.5.   Overcome barriers and roadblocks.
1.6.   Evaluate the finished project and make appropriate modifications.

PS 2.0 — Deliver the presentation in a professional manner.
2.1.   Choose an appropriate mode of communication.
2.2.   Speak effectively.
2.3.   Use appropriate body language.
2.4.   Check for understanding when articulating complex issues.
2.5.   Manage presentation time limits.
2.6.   Articulate knowledge and understanding of SkillsUSA Framework and how the Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics are applicable to the project.

PS 3.0 — Project a professional self-image through attire and grooming.
3.1.   Demonstrate a professional appearance in dress, good grooming, and personal presentation.
3.2.   Display clothing that meets national standards requirement for competition.
3.3.   Demonstrate good grooming in personal hygiene.
3.4.   Wear clothing that fits well.
3.5.   Present a wrinkle-free appearance.

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. 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.

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

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.