

## Prepared Speech

### Description

The NYC SkillsUSA Prepared Speech contest is 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.

### Clothing Requirements

- NYC SkillsUSA T-Shirt
- 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 leather shoes that are not backless or open toe

### Equipment and Materials

1. **Supplied by NYC chair/committee:**
  - a. Stopwatch
  - b. Timecards
2. **Supplied by contestant:**
  - a. All competitors must create a one-page resume.

### Scope of the Competition

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

1. The topic for the prepared speech is SkillsUSA Igniting Your Potential
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 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 may 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**

- 1. 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
  
- 2. 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
  
- 3. Wear appropriate clothing for the state competition**
  - 3.1. Display clothing that meets national standards for competition
  - 3.2. Demonstrate good grooming in dress and personal hygiene