LEVEL UP 2026 - 2027

NYS SkillsUSA

# PREPARED SPEECH

## 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.

## ELIGIBILITY

Open to active NYS SkillsUSA members.

## CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

**NYS SkillsUSA Official Attire:**

- Official red blazer, NYS Black Jacket, the older red national windbreaker or older red sweater and the Black or red Jacket from Nationals.
- 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 of the outer layer coats
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee- length). 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.
- Black shoes that are not backless or open toe.

***Note:*** **Contestants must wear their contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting. Also bring #2 pencil, and resume, safety assurance form**

## OBSERVER RULE

Observers can hear the speeches in the presentation room if space is available. No talking or gesturing is permitted. No observers are allowed in the assembly area. No audience member is permitted to enter or leave the demonstration room while a competitor speaks. No cameras, cellphones, video recorders or audio recorders can be used by 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.

### RESUME REQUIREMENT

All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Note: Your resume may be judged as part of your contest. Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the NYS SkillsUSA Web site: https://www.nysskillsusa.org

### ARRANGEMENT OF ROOM

Speech presentation room: the room will be furnished with two tables, each with chairs for judges and a timekeeper/room monitor.

### PROHIBITED DEVICES

Cell phones or other electronic devices not approved by the NYS Chairperson will be collected by the contest chair during the competition. Chairpersons will announce their acceptance by listing it on their standard or at the orientation meeting. In case of emergencies advisors should allow the competitors to take their phones to the contest areas.

If the competitor uses their device in a manner which compromises the integrity of the competition, the competitor's score may be penalized.

### ORIENTATION

The following are required at the orientation meeting, or a penalty may apply. Refer to the penalties section.

1. Safety form will be collected
2. Resume will be collected.
3. SkillsUSA NYS Official attire is required.
4. NLSC form with student information should be in the competitors name badges with the competition numbers displayed.

# SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

## KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

There is no written knowledge test required for this competition. Competitors are required to take the NYS SkillsUSA Professional Development test at orientation.

## SKILLPERFORMANCE

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

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. **The topic for the prepared speech is SkillsUSA Level UP**
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 start 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. 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

## STANDARDSANDCOMPETENCIES

### 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