



Prepared Speech



Date	March 13, 2026	Orientation Time	8:00 AM (CLOSED to instructors)
Location	Tri-County Career Center 15676 OH-691 Nelsonville, OH 45764	Contest Time	Immediately following orientation (CLOSED contest)
Scope of Contest	<p>This competition assesses public speaking skills through delivery of a five (5) to seven (7) minute speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The topic for the prepared speech will be CHAMPION YOUR FUTURE.• The speech will be five to seven minutes in length.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Time limit: Time will start 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.• No visual aids, props, notes and/or notecards will be permitted.• 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. <p><i>Please see judging rubric at end of document.</i></p>		
Testing	No		
Eligibility	1 contestant for every 500 paid members		
Clothing	Clothing Classification Guide – CLASS A		
Provided by Contestant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional Resume – typed hardcopy• Emergency Medical Form (Contestants must have this to compete) <p><u>The following WILL NOT be tolerated and are grounds for disqualification from the competition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No smart watches, cellphones and/or other electronic devices in the contest area unless specifically stated in this document. These devices cannot be used as a calculator.• No contact with anyone outside of the contest area once the contest begins.• No inappropriate communication between contestants such as verbally degrading another contestant or informing another contestant of the skills/test prior to or during the competition.• No cheating on any portion of the contest.• The use of AI is strictly prohibited and will result in an automatic disqualification of the contestant.		
	Contest Skilled Performance Standards: PS 1.0 - Plan and develop an effective presentation.	Aligned ODE Career Field Technical Content Standard Outcomes: CTE 1.1 Employability Skills	

	<p>PS 2.0 - Deliver the presentation in a professional manner.</p> <p>PS 3.0 - Project a professional self-image through attire and grooming.</p>	<p>CTE 1.2 Leadership and Communications</p> <p>CTE 1.4 Knowledge of Management and Information Technology</p> <p>CTE 1.5 Global Environment</p> <p>CTE 1.6 Business Literacy</p> <p>CTE 1.10 Sales and Marketing</p>
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Contestant Number _____

Judging Team # _____

Speaking Time (5-7 minutes) _____ minutes _____ seconds

Category Evaluated	Strong evidence 5-4	Acceptable evidence 3-2	Low evidence 1-0	Points Earned (5-0)	Weight	TOTAL SCORE	COMMENTS
Opening (1 1.5)							
Opening	Opening is strong and gets the listener's attention.	Has a clear opening but did not get the listener's attention.	Has no clear opening.	X 15			
Eye contact	Student makes effective eye contact.	Student's eye contact is inconsistent.	Student does not make eye contact.	X 15			
Voice - Voice is well modulated and controlled and carries the rhythm of the speech. (1 2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.5, 1.2.6)							
Speaking without hesitation	Speaks confidently and does not hesitate.	Mostly speaks confidently but hesitates now and then.	Does not speak confidently and pauses for prolonged periods.	X 10			
Tone of voice	Consistently speaks with an appropriate tone.	Usually speaks with an appropriate tone.	Has difficulty maintaining an appropriate tone.	X 10			
Platform Deportment - Speaker is poised and demonstrates good control of movement. (1 1.5)							
Poise	Is well-poised.	Is acceptably poised.	Is not poised.	X 10			
Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective.	Gestures are usually purposeful and generally effective.	Gestures are undirected, distracted, or edgely.	X 10			
Organization - Speech is well organized and can be easily followed. (1 2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.5, 1.2.6)							
Organization	Speech was clearly tied to the theme, logically organized, and flowed well.	Speech was missing one or more elements; adherence to theme, logical organization, and flow.	Speech was disorganized.	X 40			
Mechanics - Proper grammar is used and diction is clear. (1 2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.5, 1.2.6)							
Grammar	Exceptional grammar.	A few minor grammatical errors.	Poor grammar.	X 10			
Diction	Speaks clearly and distinctly.	Speaks clearly and distinctly most of the time.	Often mumbles or cannot be understood.	X 10			
Closing - Closing provides a clear and solid conclusion and summary of the speech. (1 2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.5, 1.2.6)							
Conclusion	Conclusion is strong and restates the opening statement.	Conclusion is recognizable and restated within first two sentences of closing.	Author's position is partly restated within the closing remarks OR no conclusion.	X 30			
Effectiveness - Assigned topic is covered and the purpose of the speech is clear and achieved. (1 2.5)							
Topic	Stays on topic throughout speech.	Stays on topic most of the time.	Often strays from the topic.	X 20			
Purpose	Shows a full understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of most of the topic.	Does not seem to understand the topic.	X 20			
TOTAL POINTS							
Penalties (Judges are not responsible for calculating this section).							
				(-5) for every 30 second interval short of 5 minutes or over 7 minutes	Time penalty		
				0 or -50	Resume penalty		
				0 to -50	Clothing Penalty		
					FINAL SCORE		