

**Prepared Speech SKILLS COMPETITION -SECONDARY LEVEL
Limestone District School Board –March 24, 2017**

TECHNICAL CHAIR: Leslie Rose (rosel@limestone.on.ca)

**** Gold medal winner will advance to the Ontario Skills Competition.**

PURPOSE OF THE CHALLENGE:

Ⓢ To evaluate each competitor’s ability to prepare and present clearly and effectively their thoughts relating to the theme established for the competition.

- Prepare for Provincial Level Competition.

TOPIC

Entrepreneurship is being encouraged and promoted across Canada, provincially, territorially, and federally.

With this in mind, respond to the following statement:

“Knowledge of skilled trades and technologies provides a foundation for successful entrepreneurship.”

LENGTH OF PREPARED SPEECH

The speech shall be at least five (5) minutes in length and will not exceed seven (7) minutes. Points will be deducted for failing to meet the minimum length or exceeding the maximum time specified in the scope.

There will be no warning light or warning sound to indicate time allotment. Competitors should develop the skill to monitor the length of their presentation.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED:

Competitors will demonstrate their ability to:

- Present thoughts in a clear, coherent and well-constructed format
- Deliver a memorable key message (main idea, opinion or position)
- Make a “connection” with the audience
- Demonstrate confidence and ease in speaking to the audience
- Use non-verbal skills (body language) to assist in expression
- Speak in a clear and understandable manner while varying voice pitch in tone, tempo and volume

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS:

Supplied by Committee:

- A podium is available upon request

Chairs are available for spectators and competitors

SAFETY

Safety is a priority at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition. At the discretion of the judges and technical chairs, any competitor can be removed from the competition site for not having the proper safety equipment and/or not acting in a safe manner.

*Competitors will not be permitted to compete until they have the needed safety equipment. Competition judges will have final authority on matters of safety.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Area	Skills	
Content	Mechanics: Diction, grammar, pronunciation	5
	Organization	10
	Opening of Speech: Lead into topic, create interest	10
	Close of Speech: Summary, conclusion, originality	10
	Effectiveness: Convincing, coherent, interesting	15
Department	Dress	5
	Poise: Confidence	10
Delivery	Eye Contact	5
	Non-verbal, gestures, mannerisms	10
	Voice: pitch, tempo, volume	10
	Enthusiasm	10
	Total	100

As the rules state, there are no ties. If the score is tied after the contest, the Effectiveness Component will be used as the tiebreaker.

RULES, REGULATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

Please be sure to review all eligibility criteria in the complete Competitor Information Package, available online at www.skillsontario.com/compinfo pkg.

Eligibility Criteria:

Secondary students must:

- Be 21 years of age or younger as of December 31 in the competition year (2014).
- Compete in only one contest at the OTSC. Students competing at a Qualifying Competition who do not advance in their designated contest area are not permitted to then register for a different contest at the OTSC.
- Possess a Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status and be a resident of Ontario.

Other Rules and Regulations all competitors need to be aware of prior to attending the OTSC:

- Translators or other assistants (e.g. hearing impaired) are permitted in the contest site only if this request was made during the registration process and approved in advance by the Skills Ontario office.
- During the contest, no one will have access to the contest site except the Technical Committee Members, Judges, Skills Ontario staff and Competitors. Spectators, including teacher/advisors, will be provided a viewing area if possible.
- If there is any discrepancy between the English and French information in the scope, the English portion will be taken as the correct information.

Immediate disqualification may occur at the discretion of the technical chair if a competitor displays any one of the following:

- Acts inappropriately
- Shows disregard for the safety of themselves or those around them
- Breaks the established rules and regulations including:
 - Uses equipment or material that is not permitted
 - Dishonest conduct (cheating, plagiarism)
 - Speaks with those outside the contest area
 - Arrives to the contest site late

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Clothing should be appropriate for a business environment. Blazers, sweaters or dress shirt/blouse and accompanying dress slacks or skirts are recommended. Competitors should think of their own comfort when presenting. Tight clothing and high-heeled shoes may hinder the presenter's comfort. Avoid busy patterns and large stripes as they detract from the face and the presenter's ability to connect in a non-verbal manner with the audience.

While corporate logos or names are not permitted on a competitor's clothing, you are allowed and encouraged to wear the logo of your school or school board.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR PREPARING AND PRESENTING A SPEECH

Those who spend the most time preparing, revising and practicing their speeches make the task look easy. However, speaking in public is not as easy as it looks. In order to help students prepare for this contest, we offer a number of helpful tips and resource suggestions:

Planning Prior to the Contest:

- Brainstorm about the theme. Spend a day considering many different ideas, which could become the building blocks for a speech.
- Build your speech around a single, central, important theme (key message). Good speechmakers often pare this down into one strong phrase or statement.
- No speech can be written without some knowledge of the audience to which it will be delivered. For the purposes of this contest, your audience will include the judges and other competitors who are interested in developing a learning environment and assisting students in gaining a sense of personal achievement. They may be strangers, but they are also supporters.
- Visit a library or bookstore for public speaking preparation guidebooks.
- Plan to spend at least one third of your total preparation time on practicing the speech. This time also offers opportunities to rewrite sections that need revision.
- Practice in front of a mirror, or have a family member/teacher videotape your presentation so that you can view yourself, and also critique for opportunities to enhance your non-verbal delivery skills.
- Deliver the speech in front of your school peers – ask for their constructive feedback. Then present again.
- Speeches are like a conversation; with the only difference being that you are speaking to more than one person... and you're doing all the talking. Find a way to draw everyone into the conversation.
- Don't feel you need to stay behind the podium. You can use the entire area. This additional movement allows you to use body language to help express your points.
- Voice is important to keeping the attention of an audience. Vary your tone, pitch and tempo to change the pace of your speech and help to express important points.
- Memorize your speech. Cue cards or notes should be used sparingly to refer only to key phrases.