

TEXAS FFA ASSOCIATION

SPEAKING DEVELOPMENT EVENTS HANDBOOK 2027-2031



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ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility of participating contestants is based on the following criteria:
 - a. Contestants must be members of the FFA and listed on the state roster of a chartered chapter in current good standing.
 - b. Contestants must have been enrolled in an agriculture, food and natural resources class during the current school year. An AFNR course is any class meeting the criteria of the Texas FFA Association's membership eligibility standards.
 - c. The individual, not the chapter, qualifies in the Speaking Development Events; therefore, should an individual not be able to compete, for any reason, in one of Speaking Development Events for which they qualify, the next highest placing individual from the same area shall qualify. (The chapter of the individual who is unable to compete may not name a replacement from their own chapter)
 - d. Contest winners are ineligible to compete in the same event again. This does not apply to division winners in senior prepared public speaking.
2. A chapter may have one contestant per event in the junior prepared, soil and water stewardship and extemporaneous speaking. Only one contestant from a Chapter in an event may advance to the State Contest.
3. The contestants may participate in more than one speaking event at the state contest. Students must use a different speech for multiple events as well as multiple categories. Should a contestant win more than one national qualifying event, pursuant to National FFA Organization policy, the state association will certify the contestant for national competition in the event of the contestant's choice.
4. Each area is entitled to send two state qualifiers in junior prepared, soil and water stewardship and extemporaneous and one qualifier per division plus an alternate in senior prepared. Substitutions: Should a state qualifier become ineligible to participate, the third-place area contestant shall be certified to participate in the state event. Substitute participants shall not be penalized for late entry provided that complete entry is made within seven (7) days of notification of participation eligibility.
5. Students may not participate in both the Junior and Senior Prepared speaking categories within the same school year.

REGISTRATION

1. All registration will be on-line in advance of the event date.
2. Entry fees are \$50.00 paid on-line.
3. Teachers must complete the online registration on Judging Card. **Materials must be uploaded.**
Registration submission will not be complete unless all required materials have been uploaded

Late or incomplete registration/entries will incur a \$50 late fee. If all requirements are not met, the student will be disqualified. If needed, alternates will be notified as soon as possible.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS DOCUMENT GUIDELINES

1. Uploaded documents should be submitted separately according to the following:
 - a. Submitted only in PDF Format;
 - b. Documents should adhere to the following guidelines:
 - i. 1" margins on all sides;
 - ii. 12-point Times New Roman font;
 - iii. Follow APA style manual (latest edition)
[Texas FFA SDE Template](#)
2. Required Materials Include Documents that will be included:
 - a. Manuscript (including cover sheet to include Cover Page-Name, Chapter, Category, Event Date)
 - b. Abstract (1-page double spaced page or less)
 - c. Complete references
 - d. [Texas FFA Statement of Originality](#)
 - e. SWCB consultation affidavit form (for Soil Stewardship only)
 - f. The National Qualifier will be required to have a manuscript in APA for the National Speaking competition at the National Convention.
3. Any contestant that does not cite references or commits plagiarism will be disqualified-from the contest.

STATE EVENT PROCEDURES

1. The Texas FFA Statement of Originality is required at the time of contest registration for all events requiring scripts and manuscripts. This statement must be signed by the supervising FFA Advisor and a campus administrator and certifies that the submitted script or manuscript was created exclusively for the presenting chapter.

All scripts and manuscripts submitted for competition will be subject to review and may be run through a plagiarism detection system. Any script or manuscript found to be copied, shared, reused without authorization, or determined to be substantially similar to another submission from the current or previous contest years may result in disqualification.

2. All contestants must be in official FFA dress according to Texas FFA which may include black dress boots, in each event with the exception of Agricultural Skills Demonstration events (the FFA bowtie is NOT acceptable official dress). Complete Official Dress Guidelines can be found at www.texasffa.org → About → What is FFA? → General Information → Official Dress. Hair accessories and jewelry are acceptable. Visible socks must be black. Students not in full compliance of official dress standards shall be notified before entering the event room and given the opportunity to correct the deficiency as long as such remedial action does not disrupt the event schedule. Members who fail to comply will not be allowed to compete. No penalties will be assessed and no corrections will take action after the contest begins. The superintendent has the final authority to make a decision on enforcing/not enforcing this rule in extenuating circumstances. No penalties will be assessed if students are required to wear personal protective equipment (i.e. face masks, face shield, gloves, etc.).
3. The semi-final and final rounds shall be held on days, times, location, and format determined by the executive director or his/her designee. Contestants with potential scheduling conflicts shall make arrangements with the contest superintendent prior to the start of the contest.
4. A contestant and coaches' orientation meeting will be held prior to the scheduled event. Contestants and their advisors in the extemporaneous speaking event must attend a mandatory orientation in advance of the scheduled event.
5. At the designated start time of the Extemporaneous Contest and Soil Stewardship Contest, contestants will be sequestered in a holding room until the appropriate time for entering the preparation room. Each contestant will be allowed to have 1 person per contestant in the holding room. Leaving the holding room will require an official escort. **No guest may enter the holding room or preparation room after the events have started.** Electronic devices shall not be permitted in the sequestered or preparation rooms. This excludes devices allowed in the extemporaneous speaking rules.

6. All other speaking events, with the exception of Soil and Extemporaneous Speaking, will have access to a designated waiting room. This may be one room per building or otherwise arranged as is most logically suited to the contest layout at the event site. Contestants will be called from the waiting room to compete in their respective events. The waiting room will not be monitored or required and will serve solely as a central hub for locating speakers.
7. When possible, events will be open to the public. Any FFA member, parent, or guest may enter the room at any time between speeches. However, once they have entered the room, they must remain in the room until the next break between speeches. Videoing or recording of events at any time is NOT permitted.
8. Due to time constraints, judges handshakes will not be permitted at the state level speaking events.
9. Semi-final heats will follow a pre-established speaking order. Contestants advancing to the finals in Extemporaneous, Jr. Prepared, and Soil Stewardship speaking will be assigned times following the order of participation in the preliminaries, alternating between heat one and heat two. Contestants advancing to the finals in Sr. Prepared will follow the posted rotation. Contestants with conflicts may request a trade of performance times with another team with the approval of the general superintendent. Advisors are under no obligation to trade performance times with another chapter.
10. There shall be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 judges for each event at the state level.
11. For the preliminary rounds, the lead judge should receive all manuscripts no less than one business day prior to the event. For the finals, manuscripts will be shared at the conclusion of the announcement of preliminary results.
12. Rubrics will be used and each judge's raw score will be converted to rankings. Placings will be determined by rank, without dropping high and low ranks.
13. TIE BREAKER: The first tiebreaker will be based on the contestant with the higher total raw score. If a tie still exists, these will be broken based on the contestant who scores higher on the question portion of the rubric, and if a tie still exists, the Oral Communications score will be used to determine placement.
14. Speakers in violation of these rules may be disqualified.

ACCOMMODATIONS & ADA

1. For students who require a contest accommodation(s), teachers should complete the Texas FFA Contest Accommodations Form found on the Texas FFA Website not less than 14 days before a qualifying event. Requests for special consideration should be made to Texas FFA Competitive Events Coordinator. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Assistance will be provided by a contest official and shall not constitute an advantage for that student or a disadvantage for other contestants. Additional time cannot be provided for completion of events. In case of extreme circumstances, stakeholders should contact the State FFA Office.

AWARDS

1. All state qualifying speakers will receive a plaque during the Speaking Development Awards Ceremony following the preliminary events.
2. All Speaking Event finalists will be announced during the Speaking Development Event Awards Ceremony. Finalists will be posted to the Texas FFA website at the conclusion of the SDE Awards Ceremony.
3. Top 12 will receive a Banner. State Champion and Runner up for the Senior Prepared Division will receive an additional banner.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

1. For state events, the state executive director shall work proactively with providers to assess potential weather and road hazards which could create travel risks for students and teachers. Should inclement weather pose a potential travel risk for groups from any part of the state, the executive director shall consult the state executive board and appropriate experts (such as but not limited to National Weather Service forecasters) to assess potential hazards and consider options for amending event start times or participation schedules to facilitate safer travels, event postponement or cancellation. The Texas FFA Association shall make student safety the top priority in all such decisions; however, the FFA advisor retains ultimate responsibility for the safety and supervision of their students.
2. If possible, the executive director or his or her designee shall notify teachers via e-mail and/or the emergency text messaging system of any impending event decisions regarding inclement weather.
3. District and area associations are to work with their respective executive committees in assessing weather- related travel risks. The state executive director shall work with area event coordinators in adjusting state entry and material submission deadlines for area events postponed due to inclement weather.
4. Due to the nature, location, and logistics of certain contests or events, the Texas FFA Association cannot guarantee the availability of alternative shelter in the event of an emergency, severe weather, natural disaster, or other unforeseen circumstances. Participants acknowledge and accept that emergency response options may be limited depending on the situation, and agree to follow all safety instructions provided by event officials at all times.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1. Appeals concerning district and area standings for recognition and awards shall be resolved by officials at the corresponding levels of competition, appeals must be submitted by the FFA Advisor.
2. The state SDE process is a tournament concept that begins at the district level and culminates at the state event. Unresolved district-level disputes concerning qualification for area competition may be appealed to the respective area executive committee only after the district committee has heard and ruled on the matter in question. Teachers may request a state level review of any such ruling. The state executive committee shall overturn only those decisions that are ruled to be arbitrary or in conflict with state policy.
3. Appeals of area-level decisions concerning state qualification or state event decisions must be filed in writing with the Texas FFA Association executive director no later than 5:00 p.m. on the working day following the decision under appeal. All appeals shall be considered by the executive board.
4. Persons whose judgment may be influenced by a vested interest or a pre-existing relationship that may impair their ability to be fair and impartial must excuse themselves from all deliberations concerning appeals.
5. Subjective qualitative judgments inherent in evaluating event performances may not be appealed.

The purpose of this event is to develop the ability of all FFA members to express themselves on a given subject without having to prepare or rehearse its content in advance.

1. The first selection of topics shall be held thirty minutes before the event. The contestant will draw three specific topics relating to the industry of agriculture and will select one. After the first contestant selects a topic, all three topics will be returned to the original group of topic areas. The next contestant will then draw three topics and then select a topic. This process continues for each contestant. Each contestant shall have 30 minutes of preparation time prior to their performance.
2. Twelve topics shall be prepared by the superintendent of the event and will include three each from the following categories: (a) agriscience and technology, (b) agri-marketing, and international agricultural relations, (c) food and fiber systems and (d) urban agriculture. They will be typed on cards. There shall be twelve different topics for the preliminary and final heats prepared by the superintendent. The Superintendent will inform the Judges of each contestant's topic selection.
3. When not preparing or performing, contestants will remain sequestered in a holding area until after they perform. Contestants will participate according to the rotation established by state rules. The first contestant will be admitted to the preparation room 30 minutes prior to the event and subsequent contestants at 15-minute intervals.
4. All reference materials must be submitted for screening **30 minutes prior to the contest** and will be held until the final speaker has competed. **Failure to comply with these rules will result in disqualification.**
 - a. **Printed materials** may include books, newspapers, magazines, and printed materials from industry or academic websites. Materials may not include notes, outlines, speeches, or annotations prepared by the contestant or others. Internet-based materials must display authorship or source information and may be subject to verification. Printed materials compiled in notebooks or folders may not exceed **100 single-sided pages** (8½" × 11"). Tables of contents or tabs are permitted and count toward the page limit.
 - b. **Electronic materials** must be stored on a **USB flash drive (maximum 4GB)**. All files must be in **PDF format only**, unaltered, and display original source information. Indexing is permitted; all other file formats are prohibited.
 - c. Computers or tablets may be used **only to access and read reference materials**. Contestants may not type, write, organize notes, or prepare speeches using electronic devices. All internet, wireless, and external connectivity must be disabled. Audio, video, and multimedia files are not permitted.
 - d. Devices and materials may be inspected at any time. Contestants are responsible for their own equipment and assume all risk of equipment failure; no accommodations will be provided.
5. Cell phones, smart phones, and gaming devices are not allowed during the contest
6. Each speech shall be the result of the contestant's own effort using approved reference material which the contestant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. The event superintendent shall provide all note cards used by contestants if contestants choose to use notecards, 3x5 and 4x6 note cards will be provided by the event superintendent for contestants to use. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 30-minute preparation period.
7. Each speech shall be no less than four (4) nor more than six (6) minutes with five (5) minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judges. A 30-second warning shall be provided via a timecard from the timekeeper or a judge for contestants in the Extemporaneous Speaking Development Event. Such a warning shall be provided when the contestant has 30 seconds remaining before going beyond the six-minute time allotment. Contestants will be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over six minutes or under four minutes. Time commences when the contestant begins speaking. Contestants may use a wristwatch only to keep record of time.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING - Rubric



Contestant Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Area: _____

Oral Communication (600 Points)						
<i>Indicators</i>	Very strong evidence skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3-2	Evidence skill is not present 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
A. Examples related to topic	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. Examples are original, logical and relevant to topic selected	Examples are usually concrete, but sometimes need clarification. Examples are generally related to topic selected	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions about the related topic.		X 10	
B. Speaks without hesitation	Speaks very articulately without hesitation. Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but sometimes hesitates. Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but frequently hesitates. Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.		X 15	
C. Tone	Appropriate tone is consistent. Speaks at the right pace to be clear. Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent.	Appropriate tone is usually consistent. Speaks at the right place most of the time, but shows some nervousness. Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes vague.	Has difficulty using an appropriate tone. The pace is too fast, nervous. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand.		X 15	
D. Speaker is detail oriented	Is able to stay fully detail oriented. Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question.	Is mostly detail oriented. Usually provides details which are supportive of the answers/basis of the questions.	Has difficulty being detail oriented. Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question.		X 20	
E. Connects and articulates facts and issues	Exemplary in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possess a strong knowledge base and is able to effectively articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	Sufficient in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses a good knowledge base and is able to, for the most part, articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	Has difficulty with connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses some knowledge base but is unable to articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.		X 20	
F. Articulation of Answers	Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease. Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Mostly speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure. Is able to speak effectively but has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus.	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking.		X 20	
G. Validity of Answers	Answer(s) sounds logical and valid.	Some answer(s) sound logical and valid.	No answer(s) seem logical or valid.		X 20	

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING - Rubric (2)



Contestant Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Area: _____

Non-verbal Communication (400 Points)

<i>Indicators</i>	Very strong evidence Skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence Skill is present 3-2	Evidence Skill is not present 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
A. Attention (eye contact)	Eye contact is consistently used as an effective connection. Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time).	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. Looks mostly around the audience (60-80% of the time).	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50% of the time).		X 20	
B. Mannerisms	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect the effectiveness. No nervous habits.	Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	Has mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. Displays some nervous habits - Fidgets or anxious ticks.		X 20	
C. Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective. Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. Great posture (confident) with positive body language.	Usually uses purposeful gestures. Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize talking points. Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language.	Occasionally gestures are used effectively. Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. Lacks positive body language; slumps.		X 20	
D. Well Poised	Is extremely well poised. Poised and in control at all times.	Is usually well poised. Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	Isn't always well poised. Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X 20	
Gross Total Points						
Point deduction (-1 point per second under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes)						
NET TOTAL POINTS - 1000 points possible						

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING - Score Card



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
ORAL COMMUNICATION													
A. Examples	50												
B. Speaks without hesitation	75												
C. Tone	75												
D. Speaker is detail oriented	100												
E. Connects and articulates facts and issues	100												
F. Speaks unrehearsed (Question and Answer)	100												
G. Validity of Answers	100												
NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION													
A. Attention (eye contact)	100												
B. Mannerisms	100												
C. Gestures	100												
D. Well poised	100												
Total Points													
Deductions (-1pt under 4/over 6 mins)													
Net Total Points													

Judge's Signature: _____

Judges Email: _____

Judges Cell: _____

1. Each speech shall be no less than six (6) nor more than eight (8) minutes with five (5) minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judges. Contestants will be penalized one (1) point per second on each judge's score sheet for being more than eight (8) minutes or less than six (6) minutes. Time commences when the contestant begins speaking. Contestants may use a wristwatch only to keep record of time.
2. Each category for the Senior Prepared Public Speaking Contest will advance the top 2 speakers, resulting in 14 finalists.
3. The following description for each speech division is provided to the participants as a suggested guideline for that division and in no way meant to be all inclusive. It is the responsibility of the participant to select subject matter appropriate and acceptable to the judges. Obviously, all subject matter should have ties to the agricultural industry.

Designated FFA Prepared Public Speaking Divisions:

- a. **Animal Science:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the industries of dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, swine, beef, specialty animals, embryo transfer, biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering as it pertains to Animal Science, etc.
 - b. **Plant Science:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of horticulture and/or agronomy industries. This may include such areas as floriculture, fruit and or/vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production, specialty crop production, biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering as it pertains to Plant Science, etc.
 - c. **Natural Resources:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air, rural water, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, environmental issues, biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering as it pertains to Natural Resources, etc.
 - d. **Agribusiness and Communication:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, hedging, advertising, online marketing program, agri-tourism, computers, journalism, communications, social media, public relations etc.
 - e. **Agricultural Policy:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as domestic farm issues, international trade, rural economic development, politics, animal rights, law, subsidies, price supports, etc.
 - f. **Agriculture Technical Systems:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as bioengineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, laser, satellites, etc.
 - g. **Food Products and Processing:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as production, processing, marketing, distribution, development of agricultural commodities and resources, including food, fiber, handling, and safety, biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering as it pertains to Food Products and Processing, etc.
4. Members may participate in more than one division if different speeches are given in each division. A different speech is defined as follows: "All speech material in each manuscript must be entirely different, including the introduction, body, and conclusion, which also includes all facts, figures, quotes, titles, etc."

1. Active members who are seventh, eighth or ninth grade students are eligible to participate. Contestants may participate more than once.
2. Each speech should address a topic related to agriculture or agribusiness and shall be no less than five (5) nor more than eight (8) minutes with five (5) minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judges. Contestants will be penalized one (1) point per second on each judge's score sheet for being more than eight (8) minutes or less than five (5) minutes. Time commences when the contestant begins speaking. Contestants may use a wristwatch only to keep record of time.

1. FFA members must write a speech relating to soil stewardship. Concepts or topics for contestants must be in accordance with the theme selected by the Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the corresponding year. The title of the speech may be different from the established theme as long as the content of the speech appropriately addresses the theme. The outline for speech development, as provided by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is for guidance only. Addressing all elements contained in the outline is not required.
2. Each speech shall be no less than six (6) nor more than eight (8) minutes with five (5) minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judges. Contestants will be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being more than eight (8) minutes or less than six (6) minutes. Time commences when the contestant begins speaking. Contestants may use a wristwatch only to keep record of time.
3. To be eligible for district competition, the contestant must have presented the speech to the local chapter. To be eligible for area competition, the contestant must have presented the speech to a school or community group and competed at the district level.

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING - Content Rubric (Senior, Junior, Soil)

Contestant Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Area: _____

SPEECH CONTENT – Topic is important and appropriate (40 points possible)						
Indicators	Very strong evidence the skill is present: 5-4	Moderate evidence the skill is present: 3-2	Evidence the skill is not present: 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
<i>Is the topic current and of interest?</i>	Topic is current. Strong evidence of personal interest in the topic.	Topic is dated. Some evidence of personal-interest.	Topic is irrelevant for the times. Unrelated to personal interest.		X 4	
<i>Is the topic relevant and within the scope identified in the rules appropriate to the category?</i>	Topic addresses a subject in the agricultural industry.	Topic addresses a subject that may show some relationship to the agricultural industry.	Topic addresses a subject unrelated to the agricultural industry.		X 4	
Total points for this section						
SPEECH COMPOSITION – Organization and Development of Content (40 points possible)						
Indicators	Very strong evidence the skill is present: 5-4	Moderate evidence the skill is present: 3-2	Evidence the skill is not present: 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
<i>Is the speech content in logical order, and does it maintain unity of thought throughout?</i>	Clearly organized and concise by remaining on target. Completely focused with obvious construction and strong introduction, body and conclusion layout.	Good organization with few statements out of place or lacking in clear construction.	Little to no organization is present. Sometimes awkward and lacking construction.		X 4	
<i>Does the content accomplish the speech's purpose?</i>	The style chosen has obviously been well thought out, based on the specific audience.	Most language is appropriate for the intended audience.	Some language used might be confusing for some audiences.		X 4	
Total points for this section						

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING - Presentation Rubric (Senior, Junior, Soil)

Contestant Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Area: _____

ORAL COMMUNICATION (300 POINTS)						
Indicators	Very strong evidence the skill is present: 5-4	Moderate evidence the skill is present: 3-2	Evidence the skill is not present: 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Examples	Examples used in the speech are vivid, precise and clearly explained. Examples are original, logical and relevant.	Examples used in the speech are usually concrete, but sometimes need clarification. Examples are effective but need more originality or thought.	Examples used in the speech are abstract or are not clearly defined. Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving listeners with questions.		X 10	
Speaks without hesitation	Speaks very articulately and without hesitation. Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but sometimes hesitates. Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	Pace is too fast; nervous; OR Extremely long pause occurs.		X 10	
Tone	Consistent, appropriate tone. Speaks at the correct places to be clear. Pronunciation of words is very clear, and intent is apparent.	Appropriate tone is usually consistent. Speaks at the correct place most of the time but shows some nervousness. Pronunciation of words is usually clear; sometimes vague.	Has difficulty using an appropriate tone. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand.		X 10	
Command of Audience	Speaker uses power of presentation to engage and captivate the audience with the message of speech.	Speaker presents speech as mere repetition of facts; speech comes across as a report.	Speaker bores the audience with a lack of enthusiasm and power to deliver speech.		X 10	
Grammar in the ORAL PRESENTATION (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.)	Grammar is extremely high quality, with 2 or fewer errors in delivery of the speech.	Grammar is adequate with 3-5 errors in delivery of the speech.	Grammar is less than adequate with 6 or more errors in delivery of the speech.		X 10	
Connect and articulate facts and issues	Exemplary in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses a strong knowledge base and is able to effectively articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	Sufficient in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses a good knowledge base and is able to, for the most part, effectively articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	Has difficulty with connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses some knowledge base but is unable to articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.		X 10	
Total points for this section						

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING - Presentation Rubric (2) (Senior, Junior, Soil)

Contestant Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Area: _____

NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION (200 POINTS)						
Indicators	Very strong evidence the skill is present: 5-4	Moderate evidence the skill is present: 3-2	Evidence the skill is not present: 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Attention (eye contact)	Eye contact is consistently used as an effective connection. Looks at the entire audience 90-100% of the time.	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. Looks around the audience 60-80% of the time.	Eye contact does not always allow the audience to connect with the speaker. Looks at someone or some groups 50% or less of the time.		X 10	
Mannerisms	Does not use distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. No nervous habits.	Sometimes uses distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	Uses mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. Displays nervous habits; fidgets or exhibits anxious ticks.		X 10	
Gestures	Gestures used are purposeful and effective. Hand gestures/motions are expressive and are used to emphasize talking points. Great, confident posture. Positive body language.	Mostly uses purposeful gestures. Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize talking points. Occasionally slumps; sometimes uses negative body language.	Only occasionally are gestures used effectively. Hands are not used to emphasize talking points. Hand motions are Sometimes distracting. Lacks positive body language; slumps.		X 10	
Well poised	Is extremely well poised. Poised and in control at all times.	Is usually well poised. Poised and in control most of the time. Rarely loses composure.	Isn't always well poised. Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X 10	
Total points for this section						

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING - Response to Questions Rubric (Senior, Junior, Soil)

Contestant Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Area: _____

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS (220 points possible)						
Indicators	Very strong evidence the skill is present: 5-4	Moderate evidence the skill is present: 3-2	Evidence the skill is not present: 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
<i>Speaks unrehearsed during question and answer period</i>	Speaks with comfort and ease. Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Mostly speaks with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure of self. Is able to speak effectively but has to stop and think. Sometimes gets off topic/lacks or loses focus.	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking. Seems to ramble. Speaks before thinking.		X 5	
<i>Demonstrates knowledge of the topic during question and answer period.</i>	Answer shows thorough knowledge of the subject of the speech. Supports answer with strong evidence.	Answer shows some knowledge of the subject. Some evidence is used in answer, but it lacks strength.	Answer shows little knowledge of the subject. Evidence is lacking to support the answer.		X 20	
<i>Demonstrates high level of articulation and vocabulary choice in answering questions.</i>	Vocabulary and articulation of answers is advanced. Speaks without the use of "umms", "ahhs" and excessive "ands."	Answers shows some evidence of advanced word choices. Very few "umms", "ahhs" and "ands."	Word choice is below par for a senior level speaker. Excessive use of "umms", "ahhs" and "ands."		X 10	
<i>Appropriate use of gestures and mannerisms in delivery of answers.</i>	Gestures and mannerisms are natural. Gestures and mannerisms enhance the quality of the answer being given. Gestures and mannerisms are not distracting.	Some use of gestures and mannerisms to enhance answer. Gestures used are not distracting.	Little to no use of gestures. Distracting mannerisms.		X 5	
<i>Non-Verbal Communication</i>	Is extremely well poised. Poised and in control at all times.	Is usually well poised. Poised and in control most of the time. Rarely loses composure.	Isn't always well poised. Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X 4	
Total points for this section						
Point deduction (-1 point per second under 6 minutes or over 8 minutes for senior division)						
Net Total Points (800 points possible)						