

Regional Competition 9A Form

Contest: Prepared Speech

Chairperson: Phyllis Lares

Chairperson's School: GST BOCES – Coopers

Competition Date: March 4, 2025

Contest Site: Alfred Campus

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The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2024-2025 school year is:

SkillsUSA: Ignite your Potential.

Items Evaluated	Possible Points	Explanatory Notes
SkillsUSA Knowledge Test		Used as a tiebreaker
Opening (Introduction)	15	The student makes a strong and effective formal introduction that clearly identifies the scope of the speech.
Voice (pitch, tempo, volume, enthusiasm)	10	The student uses a variety of verbal techniques. (Examples: modulation of voice, change of volume, varied inflection, modifying tempo, and verbal enthusiasm.)
Platform Deportment (gestures, poise, eye contact, mannerisms)	10	The student is extremely well-poised and confident. The student demonstrates an effective and pleasant delivery style including gestures, eye contact and mannerisms.
Organization (logic, clarity, coherence)	20	The speech is clearly tied to the topic and organized in a coherent and logical manner.
Mechanics (diction, grammar, pronunciation, word picture)	10	The student speaks clearly, using excellent grammar, and word pictures.
Closing (Summary, conclusion)	15	The closing provides a clear and solid conclusion and summary of the speech.
Effectiveness (assigned topic covered: purpose: impress, inform, persuade)	20	In the body of the speech, the primary points are communicated in a compact and complete manner. The assigned topic is communicated clearly and effectively. The student exhibits excellent use of verbal illustrations.
SUBTOTAL	100	
TIME PENALTY (-5 pt. For each fraction of 30 sec. under 5 min or over 7 min.)		Speech is to be 5-7 minutes in length. Minus 5 points for each fraction of 30 seconds under 5 minutes or over 7 minutes.
IDENTIFICATION PENALTY (Maximum penalty of -25 points.)		The contestants will not mention their name, school, city, or state. A five-point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.
Clothing Penalty (0 to 5% of total points)		Students must follow the Skills USA Dress Code and demonstrate good grooming and personal hygiene.
Other penalties	optional	

- The speech topic is changed yearly and is quoted at the top of this sheet. It is also on the SkillsUSA.org website. All speeches must be on this topic. (See NSLC rules.)
- Speaker will be in a private room with judges.
- No audiences are allowed due to space restrictions.
- The SkillsUSA knowledge test given at the vocational center, prior to the contest and scores brought to check in by your advisor, will be used as tiebreakers.
- All speakers will be led to a room where they will deliver their speech. **No materials may be brought in with speaker.**
- A stopwatch will be used to time the speech: time cards will be flashed by judges.
- The NYS official jacket may be worn. **Official dress will be strictly adhered to.**
- Students arriving with cell phones will be asked to put them in a designated area until after they have competed. No cell phones can be used in the prep/holding room.
- A debriefing will be held after the last contestant has performed.

**The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2024-2025 school year is:
SkillsUSA: Ignite your Potential.**

The topic to be addressed by contestants in the 2024/2025 SkillsUSA Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board competitions is our theme, “SkillsUSA: “Ignite your Potential.”

Within this topic, contestants might illustrate or discuss any of the following:

"Ignite your potential" implies sparking or unleashing your inherent abilities and talents to achieve your fullest capacity.

“Ignite your potential” suggests a process of discovering, developing, and maximizing your skills and strengths.

Discuss three ways that SkillsUSA helps its members ignite their potential.

How does learning and practicing the SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements give members confidence to pursue their goals?

What does the theme, “SkillsUSA: Ignite your Potential”, mean to you?

If asked to create a member recruitment campaign around the theme, “Ignite your Potential”, what would be your key points?

How does SkillsUSA help members discover and develop their unique talents.

How has mentorship within SkillsUSA helped members ignite their potential?

How has participating in SkillsUSA activities sparked your self-confidence?

How does SkillsUSA promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement?

How does SkillsUSA foster an inclusive environment that ignites the potential of all its members?

How does SkillsUSA prepare members to stay ahead in an ever-evolving technological landscape?

How has SkillsUSA helped members develop essential soft skills like communication, problem-solving, and adaptability, and how do these skills forward the theme, “Ignite your Potential”?

How does SkillsUSA prepare its members to compete and succeed in a global economy?

How has SkillsUSA inspired you to pursue entrepreneurial ventures or think like an entrepreneur?

How does SkillsUSA help members build a professional network and why is this important for your future?

How does participation in SkillsUSA impact the academic performance and motivation of its members?

How does SkillsUSA teach members resilience and the ability to bounce back from setbacks?

How has SkillsUSA helped you build and communicate your personal brand?