



TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS CHALLENGES

EXPLORE
YOUR INTERESTS.
DISCOVER
YOUR FUTURE.
CREATE
YOUR CAREER.

2026 DSBN REGIONAL PREPARED SPEECH SKILLS CHALLENGE SECONDARY LEVEL SCOPE

CHAIR:

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PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST: To evaluate each competitor's ability to prepare and present clearly and effectively their thoughts relating to the theme established for the competition.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Wednesday March 4, 2026

Time: TBD

Location: Niagara College - NOTL Campus

Capacity: 2 students per school (If extra space is available after the deadline, additional participants will be selected by lottery)

Judges: 2

ENTRY: Students must contact their skills challenge/tech teacher in order to register online with all the required information completed to be eligible to participate.

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

LENGTH OF 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.

TOPIC

Each competitor will speak on the topic that will be used at the 2026 National Skills Challenge. Please use the link below to access the scope for the Prepared Speech event. Be sure to click on the 2026 Scope to access the speech topic. **Please note, this scope will be uploaded to the Skills site by the end of January.**

<https://www.skillsontario.com/skills-ontario-competition#Scopes>

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS and SUPERVISION

Teachers or another designate must supervise the student to ensure that safety is adhered to and to maintain the integrity of the competition. If a supply teacher is required, it is preferable to have the supply teacher supervise your student for the Challenge.

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND SUPPLIES:

Competitors are permitted to have cue cards for their presentation; however, they should be used sparingly.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS:

Business attire appropriate for a presentation must be worn.

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:

- 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.

JUDGING CRITERIA

CONTENT	60
Mechanics: Diction, grammar, pronunciation	5
Organization	10
Opening of Speech: Lead into topic, create interest	10
Close of Speech: Conclusion that ties everything together, smooth transition to end of speech	5
Effectiveness: Convincing, coherent, interesting	10
Impact: lasting impression, memorability, creativity	10
Relevance to topic	10
DEPORTMENT	15
Dress	5
Poise: Confidence	10
DELIVERY	25
Eye-Contact	5
Non-Verbal, gestures, mannerisms	10
Voice: pitch, tempo, volume, enunciation	10
TOTAL SCORE	100

TEACHER'S ROLE:

Instructors are expected to acquaint their student participants with all of the enclosed guidelines.

TRANSPORTATION:

Competitors are responsible for their own transportation.

**** Each competitor will be given a number by their coordinator upon registration at the location and will be judged anonymously during the competition.**