



# TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS CHALLENGES

EXPLORE  
YOUR INTERESTS.

DISCOVER  
YOUR FUTURE.

CREATE  
YOUR CAREER.

## DSBN REGIONAL **PREPARED SPEECH** SKILLS CHALLENGE 2024 SECONDARY LEVEL SCOPE

### CHAIR:

Amy Converset  
Curriculum Support Services  
[amy.converset@dsbn.org](mailto:amy.converset@dsbn.org)  
905-227-5551 ext. 52206

Brenna Mcallister  
St. Catharines Collegiate  
[brenna.mcallister@dsbn.org](mailto:brenna.mcallister@dsbn.org)  
905-687-7301

**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 February 28, 2024

**Time:** TBD

**Location:** Niagara College - NOTL Campus – Rm HT114

**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**

For the Regional Challenge, each competitor will speak on the following topic:

**The futures people envision for themselves are ever-changing. Some are figuring out where they would like to begin, others may feel stuck in their professions, and many would like to experiment with something new. Canada is facing its greatest shortage of people in the workforce due to people retiring and nearing retirement age. With this in mind, how can people in different stages of life and with different interests be enticed to enter skills trades and technology careers to fill this gap?**

(\*\*Please note that competitors who move on to the Provincial Challenge may be required to adjust their speech to meet the requirements of the topic outlined by the Provincial Scope.)

## **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

|                                                                                               |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>CONTENT</b>                                                                                | <b>60</b> |
| 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        |
| <b>DEPORTMENT</b>                                                                             | <b>15</b> |
| Dress                                                                                         | 5         |
| Poise: Confidence                                                                             | 10        |
| <b>DELIVERY</b>                                                                               | <b>25</b> |
| Eye-Contact                                                                                   | 5         |

|                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| Non-Verbal, gestures, mannerisms         | 10         |
| Voice: pitch, tempo, volume, enunciation | 10         |
| <b>TOTAL SCORE</b>                       | <b>100</b> |

**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.**