

PREPARED SPEECH



OVERVIEW

Participant delivers a speech that reflects the theme of the current National TSA Conference. See the [TSA website](#) under *Themes & Problems* for the current conference theme.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) individuals per state may participate.

TIME LIMITS

- A. Each speech should be no less than three (3) minutes and no more than five (5) minutes.
- B. A one (1)-point deduction will be incurred for each ten (10)-second interval under or over the allotted time for speaking.

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required.

PROCEDURE

PRE-CONFERENCE

- A. Participants review the TSA Honor Statement for Competitive Events found in the General Rules and listed in the individual competitive event rules.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- A. Participants report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to receive an assigned presentation time.
- B. The event coordinator introduces each student by identification number only and in the order of scheduled times.
- C. Participants deliver their speech in the allotted time limit.
- D. A list of twelve (12) semifinalists (in random order) will be posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

- A. Semifinalists report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to receive an assigned presentation time.
- B. Semifinalist speeches follow the same procedure as in the preliminary round.
- C. Ten (10) finalists will be announced during the conference awards ceremony.

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Students will work to develop their leadership and 21st century skills in the process of preparing for and participating in this TSA competitive event. The development and application of those skills must be evident in their submission, demonstration, and/or communication pertaining to the entry.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- A. Each speech must be the result of the participant's own efforts.
- B. The topic for the Prepared Speech event is the published theme of the current year's conference.
- C. Information about technology and TSA is appropriate as long as it relates to the published theme.
- D. Participants are not permitted to use any type of props, computers, display boards, etc.
- E. Costumes are not permitted.
- F. Participants may use note cards during the speech.
- G. Participants may not reveal their school, chapter name, or city, but the appearance of a state name on an official TSA badge is acceptable.
- H. TSA will provide a podium in the event room.
- I. Participant scores are penalized one (1) point per ten (10)-second interval for speaking over or under the allotted time
- J. Time commences when the speech begins.
- K. Participants are not allowed to hear the speech of any other participant.
- L. No observers are allowed in the event room during heats.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

- A. All regulations and requirements from the preliminary round apply to the semifinal round.
- B. Observers are allowed to sit in the audience during the semifinals.
- C. Observers may not enter or leave during a speech.
- D. No talking, gesturing, or interaction with the audience is permitted.
- E. There should be no applause until a speech has concluded.
- F. No audio or visual recording devices (including cell phones, digital cameras, etc.) by any observer are permitted.

EVALUATION

- A. The quality, content, and effectiveness of the speech
- B. The speaker's stage presence

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

TSA HONOR STATEMENT

All work must be created and completed by individual competitors or teams. Plagiarism, the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) software, copyright violation, cheating, and falsification of information are prohibited. Participants may NOT use any generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Gemini, GitHub Copilot, etc.). Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage will not be tolerated. Competitors at any level of TSA competition understand and agree to abide by the TSA Honor Statement.

If it is determined that a student violated the TSA Honor Statement, a rules violation of twenty percent (20%) will be incurred.

STEM INTEGRATION

This event has connections to the STEM areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

LEADERSHIP AND 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

This event provides opportunity for students to build and develop leadership and 21st century skills including but not limited to – Communication, Collaboration/Social Skills, Initiative, Problem Solving/Risk Taking, Critical Thinking, Perseverance/Grit, Creativity, Relationship Building/Teamwork, Dependability/Integrity, and Flexibility/Adaptability

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

This competition has connections to one (1) or more of the careers below:

- Entertainment/television broadcaster
- Lawyer
- Politician
- Speech writer
- Teacher/trainer

Participant/Team ID# _____

PREPARED SPEECH

2026 & 2027 OFFICIAL RATING FORM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Judges: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline in the rating form, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.

Go/No Go Specifications

- Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box.
- If an item is missing, leave the box next to the item blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED.
- If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

Participant is present
 ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

CONTENT (30 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Introduction (X1)	Introduction is weak, with little effort made to highlight the theme and/or to generate interest and enthusiasm for the topic.	Effort is evident; introduction creates a moderate level of interest.	Introduction is effective, stimulating, and engaging; a strong effort is made to highlight the theme and/or to generate interest and enthusiasm for the topic.	
Body (X1)	Body of speech is poorly organized; content does not properly cover or represent the concepts and theme being presented.	Body of speech is adequately presented and is somewhat interesting.	Body of speech is clearly and effectively presented in an exceptionally interesting manner; the speech is memorable and conveys the theme.	
Conclusion (X1)	Conclusion fails to summarize or clarify the information presented in the speech.	Conclusion generally summarizes the content and theme of the speech.	The conclusion is effective, interesting, and memorable; the summary fully brings finality to the speech and the theme.	
CONTENT SUBTOTAL (30 points)				

STAGE PRESENCE (30 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Appearance (X1)	Participant's appearance is unprofessional, sloppy, and/or inappropriate.	Participant's appearance is adequate and appropriate.	Participant's appearance is clearly exceptional, appropriate, and professional.	
Confidence (X1)	Participant appears nervous during speech; poor posture, poor eye contact, and lack of confidence are evident; participant reads speech from note cards.	Participant is generally poised, displays eye contact, and is confident, with little sign of nervousness; participant's use of note cards is minimal.	Participant "commands" the room, and is exceptionally poised, confident, and positive; participant does not use note cards for the speech, or note cards do not detract from the overall speech.	



PREPARED SPEECH

STAGE PRESENCE (30 points) – continued			
Articulation (X1)	Participant conveys an inconsistent use of proper grammar, word pronunciation, acceptable pitch, and tone.	Participant generally uses proper grammar and pronunciation, and varies the tone and pitch in the delivery.	Smooth and effective articulation, proper grammar, correct pronunciation, and varied tone and pitch are used throughout the speech.
STAGE PRESENCE SUBTOTAL (30 points)			

ORGANIZATION (40 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points
Effectiveness and Quality of Presentation (X2)	Speech is poorly prepared, not interesting, and not representative of the stated theme.	Speech is adequate in most areas but exceptional in none of them.	Speech is exceptional and memorable; the observer can easily understand and relate to the speech.
Knowledge of Material (X1)	Minimal factual support is evident in the speech; the content of the speech does not relate to the theme; the participant does not convey understanding of the theme.	Factual support is provided in the speech, but the support does not always relate to the theme or match the content of the speech.	Factual support is provided in the speech; it has a strong relationship to the theme and enhances the content of the speech.
Organization (X1)	The speech is difficult to follow or understand.	The speech is adequately organized and delivered.	The speech is clearly organized and easy to follow; the delivery is exceptional.
ORGANIZATION SUBTOTAL (40 points)			

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

TIME DEDUCTIONS	
One (1) point per ten (10)-second interval is deducted for speaking under three (3) minutes or over five (5) minutes. Time commences when the competitor begins speaking.	
TOTAL TIME FOR SPEECH	_____
TOTAL TIME DEDUCTIONS	

To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary.	TOTAL (100 points)
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Comments:

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

JUDGE

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____



PREPARED SPEECH

EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

- A. Event coordinator
- B. Judges:
 1. Preliminary round, two (2) per heat room
 2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more
- C. Timekeeper, one (1)
- D. Coordinator assistant (to serve as an escort from the holding area to the heat rooms), one (1)

MATERIALS

- A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
 1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each judge
 2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
- B. One (1) stopwatch for each event room
- C. Podium
- D. Chairs for audience
- E. Tables and chairs for two (2) or more judges
- F. Prepared sign-up list indicating eight to ten (8-10) minute intervals for each heat to accommodate all registered participants.

RESPONSIBILITIES

AT THE CONFERENCE

- A. Attend the mandatory coordinator's meeting.
- B. Report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet.
- C. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough personnel have been scheduled.
- D. Inspect the area or room in which the event is to be held for appropriate set-up, including room size, chairs, tables, outlets, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.
- E. At least one (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, meet with judges/assistants to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

- F. Ensure the judges have access to the online judging system.

EVENT CHECK-IN

- A. Begin the check-in and sign-up presentation time at the time and location provided in the conference program.
- B. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the delay is caused by events beyond participant control.
- C. If check-in is on the first day of the conference, requirements for attire do NOT apply during check-in.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- A. The event coordinator takes the first participant to the event room.
- B. The event coordinator or assistant introduces the participant by entry number only. No name tags or clothing identifying the hometown, school, or chapter of the participant are allowed. A state name on a TSA patch is acceptable.
- C. Approximately every eight to ten (8-10) minutes, the event coordinator or the coordinator assistant will escort another participant to the event room.
- D. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and the CRC manager to determine either:

- 1. To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round
- 2. To disqualify the entry

The event coordinator, judges, and CRC manager must initial either of these actions on the rating form.

- E. Judges determine the twelve (12) semifinalists.
- F. Create a sign-up sheet for the semifinal round.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

- A. Using the same official rating form for semifinalists, judges assess the semifinalist speeches and determine the ten (10) finalists.
- B. Discuss rule violations (e.g., 20% deduction, disqualification) and have all relevant parties initial the rating form.
- C. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.