

2023–24 Competitive Events Guidelines

Introduction to Public Speaking



Introduction to Public Speaking provides members with the opportunity to develop and present a speech on a topic. This competitive event consists of a presentation component.

Event Overview

Division: High School (9th and 10th grades only)

Event Type: Individual

Event Category: Presentation

Event Elements: Speech

Presentation Time: 5-minute presentation time

NACE Connections: Career & Self-Development, Communication, Critical Thinking, Professionalism

Equipment Provided by Competitors: None

Equipment Provided by FBLA: None

2023–2024 Topic

Develop and deliver a speech based on the following topic: What skills are essential to secure your first job?

Section

- **Number of Competitors per Chapter:** Each local chapter may enter **one (1) member**.
- **Number of Competitors Who Advance to State:** A maximum of the **top two (2) places** from the section competition will represent their section at the State Leadership Conference.

State

- Wild cards cannot be used in this event.
- **The top four (4) places in state competition** will represent California at the National Leadership Conference.
- Middle school members who place in the top four **cannot** compete at the National Leadership Conference, per national guidelines.

California FBLA Guidelines (Section and State)

- **Performance Guidelines:**
 - **Presentation Time:** 5 minutes (one-minute warning)
 - The speech must be developed around the topic.
 - When delivering the speech, competitors may use notes prepared before the event.
 - No other reference materials such as visual aids, props, handouts or electronic devices may be brought to or used during the event.
 - Competitors may not view other competitors' presentations in their event.
 - All electronic devices such as cell phones and smart watches must be turned off before competition begins.

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- **Scoring:**
 - A panel of judges will score the performances using the rating sheet. All decisions of the judges are final.
 - Five points will be deducted if competitors do not follow the dress code.
 - Five points may be deducted for each instance of not following guidelines.

National

Policy and Procedures Manual

- Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events Policy & Procedures Manual, found on the Competitive Events page on www.fbla.org.

Eligibility

- FBLA membership dues are paid by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- Members may compete in an event at NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top ten of that event at NLC. If a member places in the top ten of an event at NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event.
- Members must be registered for the NLC and pay the national conference registration fee in order to participate in competitive events.
- Members must stay in an official FBLA hotel in order to compete.
- Each state may submit four entries.
- Each competitor can only compete in one individual/team event and one chapter event (American Enterprise Project, Community Service Project, Local Chapter Annual Business Report, Partnership with Business Project).
- Only competitors are allowed to plan, research, and prepare their presentations.
- Each competitor must compete in all parts of an event for award eligibility.
- Picture identification (driver's license, passport, state-issued identification, or school-issued identification) is required when checking in for competitive events.
- If competitors are late for a presentation time, they will be allowed to compete until such time that results are finalized, or the accommodation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event. Competitive events start in the morning before the Opening Session of NLC.

Recognition

- The number of competitors will determine the number of winners. The maximum number of winners for each competitive event is 10.

Event Administration

- This event has two parts: preliminary presentation and final presentation
- Preliminary Presentation Information: The Speech
 - **Presentation Time:** 5 minutes (one-minute warning)
 - The presentation is judged at the NLC. Preliminary presentations are not open to conference attendees. The presentation will take place in a large, open area, with a booth size of approximately 12' x 12'.

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- Competitors are randomly assigned to sections.
- The speech must be developed around the topic.
- When delivering the speech, competitors may use notes prepared before the event.
- No other reference materials such as visual aids, props, handouts or electronic devices may be brought to or used during the event.
- Final Presentation Information
 - **Presentation Time:** 5 minutes (one-minute warning)
 - An equal number of competitors from each section in the preliminary round will advance to the final round. When there are more than five sections of preliminary presentations for an event, two competitors from each section will advance to the final round.
 - Final presentations may be open to conference attendees, space permitting. Finalists may not view other competitors' presentation in their event.
 - The speech must be developed around the topic.
 - When delivering the speech, competitors may use notes prepared before the event.
 - No other reference materials such as visual aids, props, handouts or electronic devices may be brought to or used during the event.

Scoring

- The preliminary presentation score will determine the finalists.
- The final presentation score will determine the winners.
- Judges must break ties. All judges' decisions are final.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA meets the criteria specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act for all competitors with accommodations submitted through the conference registration system by the registration deadline.

Recording of Presentations

- No unauthorized audio or video recording devices will be allowed in any competitive event.
- Competitors in the events should be aware FBLA reserves the right to record any presentation for use in study or training materials.

Penalty Points

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Competitive Event Guidelines or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late for their assigned presentation/speech time.

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Introduction to Public Speaking Presentation Rating Sheet

Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Topic Incorporates provided topic	<i>Provided topic is not mentioned in speech</i>	<i>Topic is not clearly incorporated into speech</i>	<i>Topic was clearly incorporated into speech</i>	<i>Topic was clearly incorporated and expanded thoroughly throughout the speech</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Theme Identify and execute a consistent theme	<i>No theme presented</i>	<i>Theme was identified, but not consistent throughout speech</i>	<i>Theme identified and consistent throughout speech</i>	<i>Personal stories are utilized to expand on the central theme</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Introduction Introduce the topic immediately	<i>Topic was not introduced</i>	<i>Introduction was not clearly presented</i>	<i>Introduction was clearly presented, and topic was defined immediately</i>	<i>Introduction was clearly presented, and topic was defined immediately with an effective transition into the speech body</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Supporting Information (Body) Include accurate and appropriate supporting information	<i>Speech did not have a topic</i>	<i>Multiple topics presented without clear connections</i>	<i>Central topics were identified, connected, and supported throughout the speech</i>	<i>Smooth transitions were effectively utilized to support the central topic</i>	
	0 points	1-9 points	10-16 points	17-20 points	
Conclusion Provide effective conclusion connected to the topic & theme	<i>Speech did not have a conclusion</i>	<i>Conclusion was not clearly presented</i>	<i>Effective conclusion was presented</i>	<i>Conclusion provides connection to entire presentation</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Speech Delivery Deliver speech with varied facial expressions, eye contact, good posture, voice projection, self-confidence, and poise	<i>Does not have varied facial expressions and/or poor posture</i>	<i>Minimal varied facial expressions and/or poor posture</i>	<i>Appropriate varied facial expressions and posture</i>	<i>Appropriate varied facial expressions and posture that keeps audience fully engaged</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
	<i>Does not make eye contact</i>	<i>Minimal eye contact</i>	<i>Appropriate eye contact</i>	<i>Appropriate eye contact and didn't use notecards</i>	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
	<i>Does not have voice projection</i>	<i>Minimal voice projection</i>	<i>Appropriate voice projection</i>	<i>Appropriate voice projection and diction</i>	
0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points		
<i>Competitor did not demonstrate self-confidence</i>	<i>Competitor demonstrated self-confidence and poise</i>	<i>Competitor demonstrated self-confidence, poise, and good voice projection</i>	<i>Competitor demonstrated self-confidence, poise, good voice projection, and assertiveness</i>		
0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points		
Staff Only: Penalty Points (5 points for dress code penalty and/or 5 points for late arrival penalty)					
Presentation Total (100 points)					
Name(s):					
School:					
Judge Signature:					Date:
Comments:					