

2024-25 Competitive Events Guidelines

Exploring Public Speaking



Exploring 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: Middle School

Event Type: Individual

Event Category: Presentation

Event Elements: Speech with a Topic

Presentation Time: 3-minute presentation time

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

2024-25 Topic

Choose skills that are developed when participating in community service or volunteer experiences and explain why these skills matter.

State

Check the Call to Conference for any competitive events information and deadlines.

National

Required Competition Items

Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference-provided nametag• Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

Important FBLA Documents

- Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events [Policy & Procedures Manual](#), [Honor Code](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Dress Code](#).

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. This event is not eligible for those that placed in the top ten at previous NLCs in Elevator Speech.
- Members must be registered for the NLC and pay the national conference registration fee to participate in competitive events.
- Members must stay in an official FBLA hotel block to compete.
- Each state may submit four entries.
- Each competitor can only compete in one individual/team event and one chapter event (Annual Chapter Activities Presentation, Community Service Presentation).
- Only competitors are allowed to plan, research, and prepare their presentations.

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- If competitors are late for their assigned presentation time, they will be allowed to compete with a five-point penalty until such time that results are finalized, or the accommodation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event.
- Some competitive events start in the morning before the Opening Session of NLC. The schedules for competitive events are displayed in the local time of the NLC location. Competitive event schedules cannot be changed.

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
- Presentation Information: The Speech
 - **Presentation Time:** 3 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'.
 - 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: The Speech
 - The above presentation guidelines will be in effect for the final presentation.
 - An equal number of top scoring 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.

Scoring

- The preliminary presentation score will determine the finalists.
- The final presentation score will determine the winners.
- Judges must break ties.
- The decision of the judges is considered final. All announced results are final upon the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

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.

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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 Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to their assigned presentation/speech time.

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Exploring 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	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 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	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 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	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 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	1-8 points	9-12 points	13-15 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 elevated self-confidence, and poise</i>	<i>Competitor demonstrated elevated self-confidence, poise, 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:	