

Introduction to Public Speaking

Introduction to Public Speaking gives members the opportunity to develop and deliver a speech on a designated topic. This event helps members build confidence, organize ideas, and strengthen their verbal communication skills through a live presentation.

Event Overview

| Division | High School (9th and 10th grades only) | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| Event Type | Individual | | |
| Event Category | Presentation | | |
| Event Elements | Speech | | |

Educational Alignments

| Career Cluster Framework Connection | Marketing & Sales |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| NACE Competency Alignment | Career & Self-Development, Communication, |
| | Critical Thinking, Professionalism |

2025-2026 Topic

Develop and deliver a speech based on the following topic:

Social Media Smarts: Building a Positive Online Presence

Deliver a speech on how students can use social media responsibly while protecting their reputation and making a positive impact. Discuss strategies for staying safe, being respectful, and thinking before posting.

How can teens make smart choices online that reflect their values and future goals?

Region

Each chapter may submit one (1) competitor.

State

Each region may submit two (2) competitors for state competition. Preliminary round will take place on Friday; final round will take place on Saturday. An equal number of students from each preliminary group will advance to finals—not to exceed ten (10) finalists.

National

Required Competition Items

| Items Competitor Must Provide | Items FBLA Provides | | |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Conference-provided nametag | • N/A | | |
| Photo identification | | | |
| Attire that meets the <u>FBLA Dress Code</u> | | | |

Important FBLA Documents

Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events <u>Policy & Procedures Manual</u>, <u>Honor Code</u>, <u>Code of Conduct</u>, and <u>Dress Code</u>.

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Eligibility Requirements

To participate in FBLA competitive events at the National Leadership Conference (NLC), the following criteria must be met:

- **Membership Deadline**: FBLA national membership dues must be paid to the specific division by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- Repeat Competitors: Members may only compete in an event at the NLC more than once if they
 have not previously placed in the top 10 of that event at the NLC. If a member places in the top
 10 of an event at the NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event at future NLCs,
 unless the event has been modified beyond a name change. Chapter events are exempt from
 this procedure.
- **Conference Registration**: Members must be officially registered for the NLC and must pay the national conference registration fee to participate.
- **Official Hotel Requirement**: To be eligible to compete, competitors must stay within the official FBLA housing block.
- State Entry Limits: Each state may submit up to four entries per event.
- Event Participation Limits: Each member may participate in:
 - o One individual or team event, and
 - One chapter event (e.g., Community Service Project or Local Chapter Annual Business Report).
- **Competitor Responsibility**: Only registered competitors are permitted to plan, research, prepare, and set up their presentations. Advisers and others may not assist.
- **Participation Requirement**: To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- Identification at Check-in: Competitors must present valid photo identification (physical or digital) that matches the name on their conference name badge. Acceptable forms include a driver's license, passport, state-issued ID, or school ID.
- Late Arrivals: Competitors will be allowed to compete until such time that the results are finalized, or participation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event, as determined by Competitive Events staff. If judges have left the competitive event area, it is no longer possible to compete. Five penalty points will be assessed for late arrivals in any competitive event.
- Event Schedule Notes:
 - Some events may begin before the Opening Session.
 - o All schedules are posted in local time for the NLC host city.
 - Schedule changes are not permitted.

Event Administration

This event consists of two phases: a preliminary presentation and a final presentation.

Preliminary Presentation Details

Timing Structure

- **Equipment Set-Up:** 0 minutes
- **Presentation:** Maximum of 5 minutes (one-minute warning)



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- Question & Answer (Q&A): 2 minutes
- **Important:** Time allocations are exclusive. Time may not be shifted between segments.

Venue & Format

- Presentations occur in-person at the National Leadership Conference (NLC).
- Competitors are randomly assigned to presentation sections.
- Presentations will take place in a large, open area with a designated space of approximately 10' x 10', which includes a table and chairs for the judges.
- The preliminary round is closed to conference attendees and audience.

Restricted Items

- Animals, except for authorized service animals.
- Reference materials such as visual aids, props, handouts or electronic devices.

Copyright Compliance

- All competitors must comply with state and federal copyright laws.
- Facts and data must be cited using credible sources.

Event Specific Information

- The speech must be developed around the topic.
- When delivering the speech, competitors may use notes prepared before the event.

Final Presentation Details

The presentation guidelines outlined above will apply to the final presentation.

Advancement to Finals

- The top-scoring competitors from each preliminary section will advance to the final round in equal numbers.
- The number of competitors advancing to the final round depends on the number of preliminary sections:
 - o 2 sections: Top 6 from each section advance
 - o 3 sections: Top 4 from each section advance
 - 4 sections: Top 3 from each section advance
 - o 5 sections: Top 3 from each section advance
 - More than 5 sections: Top 2 from each section advance

Scoring

- Preliminary round scores are used to determine which competitors advance to the final round from each section.
- Final round scores determine the final rankings and top award winners.
- Judges are responsible for breaking all ties in both preliminary and final rounds.
- All judging decisions are final. Results announced at the National Leadership Conference are considered official and will not be changed after the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

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 time.



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Recognition

• A maximum of 10 entries (individuals or teams) may be recognized per event.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

FBLA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing reasonable
accommodations for competitors. Accommodation requests must be submitted through the
conference registration system by the official registration deadline. All requests will be
reviewed, and additional documentation may be required to determine eligibility and
appropriate support.

Recording of Presentations

- Unauthorized audio or video recording is strictly prohibited in all competitive events.
- FBLA reserves the right to record presentations for educational, training, or archival purposes.
 Competitors should be aware that their presentations may be recorded by FBLA-authorized personnel.



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Judge Signature: Date:

Comments: