

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Purpose:

Students will develop the ability to convey information in an effective manner while increasing self-confidence and developing an appreciation for competition.

Description:

The speech should be centered on the state theme. The speech should be the result of the contestant's efforts. You will have a brief interview with the judges after the delivery of your speech.

Rules and Procedures:

1. A CTI competitive event portfolio which meet all guidelines laid out in the Public Speaking rubric.
2. The speech must be the original work of the student.
 - a. **Appendix E student project authenticity verification form-- MUST be included as the last page in the CTI competitive event portfolio or the student will be disqualified.**
3. Each speech shall have a time limit of
 - a. Level One – Two minutes in length
 - b. Level Two – Three minutes in length
 - c. Time penalty – Five points will be deducted for each 30 seconds under or over the time limit.
4. A timekeeper will record the time. The timekeeper will give a warning one-minute before the end of the allotted time.
5. Note cards may be used. Cards should be no larger than 5" X 7". The speech cannot be read.
6. Contestants will compete in numerical order according to numbers drawn upon entering the room. Contestants will be referred to by number only.
7. Space permitting others will be allowed in contest area.
8. Speeches may be recorded by state administration.

Suggested Judge Questions:

1. Tell me about yourself.

This question is often used to break the ice and see how personable you can be. Be careful not to drone on endlessly for this question. It's easy to get caught up in your back story and lose track of time. A safe answer is to give a brief overview that covers where you grew up, where you went to school, why you chose your major, any internship experience you have, and why you're applying for this job.

2. What are your strengths? Your weaknesses?

To answer this question, you need to do some introspection. Ask your friends, family, and any previous coworkers what they how they view your strengths and weaknesses. Prepare to discuss at least 3 strengths and 3 weaknesses. Stay away from clichés like “perfectionist” and “workaholic” as they can be interpreted as weaknesses. Own up to your faults. Everyone has them. Just be honest and open to improving yourself.

3. Give me an example or a situation in which...

These questions are not only used to determine what you learned from a particular experience, but also to assess how you would respond to potential workplace scenarios and situations. Prepare to talk about 3 scenarios in which you faced conflict or difficulty in either work or school, had difficulty with either a supervisor or peer, and a leadership opportunity or a project you are particularly proud of.

4. Tell me why you chose this specific project?

The good news here is that nobody knows and understands your experiences better than you, so you should be confident for this question. This is a great opportunity for you to sell yourself. A good framework for your answers is to explain the goals for any class or internship, cover your personal responsibilities in any projects, and discuss the outcomes. Again, avoid droning on for too long about any particular experience and wrap things up concisely.

5. What are your longer-term career goals (or where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years)?

There is no “right answer” to this question and it's certainly ok to say that you don't have any. However, be prepared to explain why you don't have any. One solid strategy is to downplay your career goals and aspirations (you are young after all) and play up your interest in the company and industry of the job you're applying for. Showcase your passion to be a part of whatever it is they are doing.