

Skills BC Provincial Competitions Document

Public Speaking (Secondary) 2026

Check in time: 8am check in. Contest Length: 3 - 5 hours.

1. INTRODUCTION

This year the competition will be held in person at the **Abbotsford Tradex on Wednesday, April 15th 2026 at 8:00am**. Students will need a mentor to help with submissions and to ensure all rules are followed.

1.1 Purpose of the Challenge

The Conference Board of Canada has identified the skills needed to enter and progress in the world of work—whether it is self-employment or working as a part of a team. One such skill area is effective oral and written communication including the ability to do the following:

- Write and speak so others pay attention and understand
- Listen and respond to questions
- Share information
- Use technological knowledge and skills to explain or clarify ideas

The public speaking competition is designed to encourage and enhance the development of these skills in making career choices. The challenge provides the opportunity for competitors to prepare and present a speech, conduct research and to construct answers to related questions in a clear and concise manner.

1.2 Duration of contest: 3 - 5 hours (dependent on number of entrants)

1.3 Skills and Knowledge to be tested

- Present thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on one of the assigned topics.
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the 5-to-7-minute timeframe.
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position).
- Speak easily, with confidence.
- Use non-verbal skills (body language and gestures) to assist in expression.
- Be expressive by varying voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.
- Think quickly and answer unseen questions clearly, with conviction within the one minute and thirty second time limit per question.
- Reflect upon research, make observations, and share experiences through prompted response.

2. CONTEST DESCRIPTION

This contest follows the National Public Speaking format. There will be an impromptu speech, then the prepared speech followed by a response question. Students will be given information at the beginning of the day.

For the impromptu speech, each competitor will be given an individual topic connected to the activities happening in the competition areas. The response question will be directed from the written essay.

Impromptu speech:

After checking in, competitors will observe the on-site Skills Canada competitions to gather information about skills trades & technology careers. The intent of these observations is to support and inform the responses to the impromptu topic. Each competitor will receive a different topic.

They will have a maximum of 2 minutes to prepare and 3 minutes to respond. Timecards will be shown at the 2-minute, 1 minute, and 15 second points to indicate time remaining during response.

Prepared Speech:

Each competitor will speak on the following prompt for their prepared speech:

***Apprenticeship is an essential component of a pathway to a successful career in the Skilled Trades and Technologies.
With this in mind,
How can we attract and encourage more students to consider this option?***

1.2 Competitors should reflect creatively on their chosen topic, ensuring they maintain a focus and consider the content implied by the topic. Students are expected to express themselves clearly while capturing the attention of their listening audience.

1.3 One week prior to the competition, competitors must email their prepared speech to: atkinsa@camosun.ca There must be a title page and clearly indicated topic, double spaced, justified, Arial 14 and competitor's name on each page. Competitors who do not submit their speech by Wednesday, April 8, 2026 midnight will be disqualified from the competition. Competition host is April Atkins, any additional questions should be submitted to: atkinsa@camosun.ca

1.4 Length of prepared speech

- The speech shall be at least five (5) minutes in length and shall not exceed seven (7) minutes.
- Five (5) points will be deducted from each judge's score for each minute or portion thereof under the minimum time or in excess of the maximum time.
- There will not be a warning light or sound to indicate time allotment. Competitors should develop the skill to monitor the length of their presentation.

1.5 Length of Response to Question

- At the end of the prepared speech, the student will be asked one question.
- Competitors will have exactly one minute and thirty seconds to respond to the question. Timecard will be provided to indicate 15 seconds remaining.
- Two (2) points will be deducted from the final score should the question exceed the one minute and thirty second specified.

1.6 Tasks that will be performed during the contest

- After checking in, competitors will have 30 minutes to pursue the competition grounds to become familiar with the events and competitions that are occurring throughout the Tradex.
- The competition will start with Impromptu speeches followed by the prepared speeches. After each prepared speech the competitor will be asked one question pertaining to the content of their speech.

3. EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

3.1 Equipment and material provided by Skills Canada British Columbia

- Main stage, podium/lectern, microphone and public address system.
- Audience seating for spectators who wish to listen.

3.2 Required clothing (Provided by competitor)

- Clothing should be appropriate for a formal presentation.
- 1 point will be deducted from each judge's final score of 105 points for violation of this regulation.

4. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by competitors

- No PPE required

4.2 List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by Skills Canada-BC (SCBC)

- No PPE required

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 Ties

- Tiebreaker #1: The competitor with the highest score in the Delivery criteria of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #2: The competitor with the higher mark in the Content section of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #3: The student with the highest overall score in the Impromptu Speech will be declared the winner.

6. ASSESSMENT

Written submission, impromptu speech, delivery of speech and the response to the speech question.

IMPROMPTU SPEECH

CONTENT	
Response addresses the prompt	/2
Chooses ideas that demonstrate understanding of the topic	/1
Develops ideas adequately	/1
ORGANIZATION	
Uses effective introduction	/2
Focuses and presents ideas in a logical order	/2
Links ideas coherently	/2
Concludes effectively	/2
DELIVERY	
Effectiveness: uses convincing, coherent language	/2
Voice: expression, tempo, volume, phrasing	/2
Eye contact: engages with audience	/2
Non-verbal: gestures, mannerisms, body language	/2

WRITTEN SPEECH

Response develops the content contained in the first section of the prompt	/2
Response develops the content contained in the second section of the prompt	/3
Introduction is coherent and shaped	/2
Introduction contains the assigned topic	/2
Arrangement of supporting ideas contributes to a competent discussion	/2
Supporting ideas are focused on assigned topic	/3
Transitions link ideas coherently	/2
Conclusion is relevant	/2
Conclusion is connected to the assigned topic	/2

SPEECH DELIVERY

Introduction gains audience attention	/2
Introduction previews main ideas	/1
Supporting ideas are connected to assigned topic	/2
Supporting ideas develop assigned topic	/1
Supporting ideas are precise	/1
Conclusion is appropriate and skillful	/2
Presents ideas in a logical order	/2
Captures interest at the beginning of the speech	/2
Holds interest through to the end of the speech	/2
Convincing	/2
Commands audience attention (confirm the order)	/2
Effective word choice	/2
Volume is sufficient	/2
Volume used for effect	/1
Appropriate tempo (pacing)	/2
Effective phrasing	/2
Expressive	/2
Varies tone and pitch	/2
Displays self-confidence	/2
Composed	/2
Correct use of conventions: diction, grammar, pronunciation	/2
Eye contact: engages with entire audience	/2
Eye contact is effective	/1
Fluency: fluidity, smoothness	/2
Polished	/2
Gestures	/2
Mannerisms, body language	/2

SPEECH QUESTION

Addresses the question	/1
Demonstrates knowledge of topic	/1
Develops ideas adequately	/1
Organizes ideas logically	/1
Demonstrates clarity and conviction	/1

REGULATIONS

Impromptu speech delivered within required <u>time specifications</u>	/2
Prepared speech delivered within <u>time specifications</u>	/2
Prepared speech question response delivered within <u>time specifications</u>	/2
Speech submitted on time	/2
Speech submitted in specified format	/2

COMPETITION POINTS	
Impromptu Speech	/20
Written Speech	/20
Speech Delivery	/50
Speech Question	/5
Regulations	/10
TOTAL POINTS	/105