

# PREPARED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE & KNOWLEDGE



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## PURPOSE

To evaluate each contestant's ability to prepare and produce an ASL performance clearly and accurately.

## CLOTHING REQUIREMENT

For men: A solid interpreting business appropriate shirt in a color contrasting contestant's skin for maximum visibility; black dress slacks; black socks and black dress shoes.

For women A solid interpreting business appropriate shirt or blouse in a color contrasting contestant's skin for maximum visibility; black dress slacks or a knee length plain black skirt; black sheer or skin-tone seamless hose and black dress shoes.

Additionally, all contestants must remove jewelry, bright colored nail polish, or otherwise distracting articles of clothing for the competition, as they impede judging ability and detract from the performance. Hair and headwear that obstruct the contestant's facial expression must also be removed.

## ELIGIBILITY

Open to active SkillsUSA members.

## OBSERVER RULES

Observers will be allowed to view the performances in the presentation room provided space is available. No talking or gesturing will be permitted. No observers will be allowed in the assembly area. No member of the audience will be permitted to enter or leave the demonstration room while a contestant is signing. No member of the audience will be permitted to use cameras, video recorders or tape recorders.

## EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:

- a. Stopwatch
- b. Time cards

2. Supplied by the contestant:

- a. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy to the technical committee chair at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty.

Your contest also requires a hard copy of your translated performance as part of the actual contest. Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the SkillsUSA website:

[www.skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml)

## ARRANGEMENT OF ROOMS

Presentation room: A room will be furnished with two tables, each with chairs for judges and a timekeeper/room monitor.

## SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

### Knowledge Performance and Interview

The contest at state competitions will include a written knowledge test assessing general knowledge of Deaf culture, ASL, and interpreting. There will also be an interview portion produced in ASL.

### Skill Performance

This contest assesses signing through the delivery of a two to two and a half minute performance at the regional level and a two and a half to three minute performance at the state level.

## Contest Guidelines

1. The topic for the prepared performance may be selected by the contestant and must be suitable material introduced before the performance. Material may include one of the following:
  - An original story or poem prepared by the student
  - An ABC story

- A production of a poem or story whose author *must* be attributed
- 2. The performance will be unique to the competition each year and lasting two to two and a half minutes in length. State competitions will be two and a half to three minutes. Penalty: Five points will be deducted for every 30 seconds under two minutes, or for every 30 seconds over two and a half minutes.

3. Time limit: Time will be started when the performance begins. The timer will signal the speaker at two minutes and at two and a half minutes. The contestant will be permitted to use a watch or clock.

4. No visual aids, props, notes and/or note cards will be permitted.

5. Contestants will not mention their name, school, city or state. A five-point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.

6. Contestants may choose to submit one typewritten translated copy of the performance to the technical committee prior to the debriefing meeting.

7. The following judging criteria will be used:

a. Sign Accuracy —

- Accurate usage of signs
- Adherence to the five parameters of ASL
- Grammar/Facial Expression
- Accurate fingerspelling and/or contrasting structure if applicable
- Speed is regulated (modifying tempo)
- Use of Space
- Signs are proportionate and visible

b. Performance and Professionalism —

- No visible nervous habits
- Tone appropriate to content
- Flow of movement
- Memorization and preparedness
- Focus and poise
- Creation of mood/character
- Uniqueness
- Uses respectful signs
- Topic or material is clearly suitable for a school environment
- Clothing meets requirements
- Contestant is respectful
- Awareness of audience

c. Timing —

- Performance meets time requirements (including limitations on introductions)

## **Standards and Competencies**

### **PS 1.0 — Design and create an effective presentation based upon the designed theme**

1.1 Prepare a presentation for a specific time

1.2 Show memorization and preparedness

1.3 Select appropriate material

### **PS 2.0 — Deliver the presentation in a professional manner**

2.1 Demonstrate an effective and pleasing delivery style

2.2 Effectively use a variety of signs

2.3 Make a formal and effective introduction of material

2.4 Use a variety of techniques including: contrasting structure, adherence to parameters, varied facials, modifying tempo and enthusiasm

2.5 Demonstrate poise and self-control while presenting

2.6 Demonstrate good platform development and personal confidence

2.7 Communicate the presentation in a compact and accurately conveyed manner

2.8 Complete the performance within the time limits set by contest requirements

### **PS 3.0 — Wear appropriate clothing for the contest**

3.1 Display clothing that meets standards for competition

3.2 Demonstrate good grooming in dress and personal hygiene