### **LEADERSHIP ESSAY**

(Missouri only Contest)

#### **Purpose**

To evaluate each contestant's ability to write an essay on an assigned topic with a minimum of advance preparation and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in essay writing skills.

First, refer to General Regulations

#### **Clothing Requirements**

SkillsUSA blazer, sweater, or windbreaker and accompanying official SkillsUSA Attire.

#### **Eligibility**

Open to active SkillsUSA members.

#### **Equipment and Materials**

- 1. Supplied by the technical committee:
  - a. Tables and chairs.
  - b. Copies of the selected essay.
  - c. Clock and Time Cards as required.
  - d. All necessary information and furnishings for the judges and technical committee.
- 2. Supplied by the Contestant:
  - a. 8 1/2" X 11" Ruled writing paper.
  - b. Ballpoint pens or sharpened pencils.
  - c. Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus.
  - d. Current SkillsUSA Leadership Handbook.

#### **Scope of Contest**

- 1. The essay topic and type of essay will be provided on the day of the contest. The topic will be chosen from the current SkillsUSA Leadership Handbook, National Theme, employability skills or leadership skills. The type of essay will be one of the following:
  - a. Descriptive
  - b. Informative
  - c. Narrative
  - d. Persuasive
  - e. Problem-solution
  - f. Opinion
- 2. Essays must be written in longhand and cannot exceed 1000 words.
- 3. The writing time at the district level will consist of two hours and at the state level three hours.
- 4. The essay should include a title page that includes the following information:
  - a. The student's name.
  - b. The student's home.
  - c. School Name
  - d. Instructor's Name.
  - e. Title of the essay.
- 5. Prior to the judging, the contest chair will remove the title pages and identify the essays by contestant #.

Note: No national competition is available for this event.

# LEADERSHIP ESSAY RATING SHEET

## **SAMPLE**

ITEMS EVALUATED	POSSIBLE POINTS	CONTESTANT NUMBER
Content - topic choice - title - logic - development - conclusion - other		
Organization - topic sentence - transitions - unity and focus - logical order - other		
Mechanics and Usage - fragment - fused sentences and or comma splice - omissions and errors in format and mechanics (capitalization, commas, abbreviations) - distracting illogical shifts in tense, person, and/or number - spelling, hyphens, apostrophes and /or misused words - subject/verb agreement errors - pronoun errors (reference, agreement, number, case) - non standard English - verb endings - other		
Style - variety in sentence length - variety in sentence beginnings - sophisticated structures - sophisticated punctuation - effective word choice - pretentious and/or vague language - distracting and/or unnecessary repetition of words or ideas - unnecessary expletives - slang and/or contractions - awkward sentences - choppy style - other		
Sub-total Clothing Penalty		
Total Score		