

How to “Do” a District Scholarship Presentation

You will have approximately 5-7 minutes with a set of judges, so you will want to use your time very wisely. In most cases, not all judges will judge all presentations. However, time permitting, the other judges may ask you for a brief two-minute interview to support the overall judging.

Here is a suggested timeline for your presentation:

Before your presentation:

BE PREPARED!

- Make sure you are available for the group photo and orientation before judging begins.
- Set up your display the day before or morning of your presentation. This area should be available to scholarship applicants only and secured overnight.
- Handouts are **not mandatory**; however, IF you choose to have them they should be one page, typed and photocopied prior to your presentation date. You will need 2-4 copies.
- Be ready to present at least 15 minutes prior to your school presentation start time.
- Make sure you have all of the equipment you will need ready beforehand (projector, TV, laptop...). This is your responsibility, don't wait until the last minute.
- “Dress to Impress” – consider this as a job interview when choosing your clothes for the day.
- Bring water, lunch, or snack and something to keep you busy and at your display while you wait for your turn with the judges (homework, sewing, etc.). A chair should be provided by your school.
- Be prepared to stay at your display for the duration (not on the other side of the room or in the hallway talking with your friends) as the other judges will want to talk with you. The judges don't want to have to track you down when it's your turn. If you must leave your station to use the washroom, let your neighbours know if possible or leave a note. Be back as soon as possible.

Start off right:

- Introduce yourself to the judges. Shake hands if it feels natural.
- Use eye contact to show confidence in your work and yourself.
- Have a long-term plan.
- Remember the three “C's” of speaking: be clear, correct and courteous.

Sequence

- If you have one, hand out your one page handout.
- Explain your “field of excellence” ...why is it excellent???
- Be prepared to talk about your display. In this section you may want to discuss how you have applied your area of excellence to extra-curricular activities (i.e., if you are a hair stylist, how have you used your skills in the school and/or community?).
- Discuss your plans for the future. What is your goal and what steps are you taking to get there?
- Discuss your areas of citizenship. What have you done to volunteer in the school or community? How does it relate to your chosen field?
- At the end of the presentation, you may be asked if you have any questions...if you do, feel free to ask the judges.
- Thank the judges for their time.

NOTE: Other judges may come by to seek a brief summary in order to help with the overall judging.

Displays may be taken home with you when you leave.