

## **FAQ's from Students**

### **Is there a reference library to look up these topics?**

No we don't have books for them to use as reference. They are allowed to access the internet through the convention center or use their own books, but we encourage them to talk to professors and professionals to get up-to-date and pertinent information. Use this as an opportunity to network.

### **Can I use note cards or a lap-top for notes?**

Yes they can use notes or a lap top—but we encourage them not to “read” during their speech. Having a list of bulleted statements to keep them on track is a good strategy. Remember that it looks more professional to **not** cling to notes.

### **Can you help me choose a topic—What should I pick??**

We can not help with topic selection or speech organization. The only tip we have given in the past is that many winning speeches have been the more specific and seemingly difficult topics—because the topic was already narrowed down for them and allowed them to structure a more concise speech.

### **Can I use visuals?**

Yes a flip chart and pens will be made available to them inside the contest room. PowerPoint is not available. You will be allowed 1 minute at the beginning of your time slot to prepare these charts and drawings. This time will not be considered speaking time. The timers will start as soon as you face the audience and begin speaking. If you choose to draw these visuals as you speak, the time drawing will be included in your official time.

### **I don't know anything about the topics I drew... what do I do?**

There is more information at this convention that you could find in a text book or on line. Ask your coaches to direct you to a professional who has experience in that field or topic. Take a look at the trade show for professionals working in the business.

Remember, this is a 5 minute speech, not a dissertation. You are judged more on your professionalism and organization than knowledge. With that said, these are Range professionals from the SRM who fill the judge's seats; do not make stuff up.

### **Will there be questions after the speech?**

Yes, the judges are instructed to ask 1 follow-up question on the information presented in your speech. They are looking for professionalism in your answers.