

HIGH SCHOOL ORAL PRESENTATION COMPONENT

Participation in the High School Oral Presentation Component (OPC) will be a mandatory part of the North Carolina State Envirothon and will be a part of the scoring to determine the overall winner.

What is the Oral Presentation Component?

The Oral Presentation Component (OPC) offers Envirothon teams a chance to address real-life environmental problems as presented through a written scenario. The OPC tests a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and present their findings to a panel of judges. The OPC offers students a chance to hone their public speaking, problem solving and presentation skills, and it also helps the students prepare for the upcoming testing stations.

How does it Work and What will it Teach My Students?

The Oral Presentation Component problem will be provided to all teams during the first day of the contest. The Oral Presentation Preparation Station will be 65 minutes in length and be part of the rotation on Friday. At this station the teams will receive written copies of the problem and be given note cards for personal notes and poster board for making visual aids. Immediately following this station the teams will give their presentations at the Oral Presentation Station. During the Oral Presentation session, teams present their recommendations to a panel of judges chosen by the North Carolina Envirothon Committee. A total of five judges will constitute a panel. Each team will have up to 10 minutes to make their presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions from the judges. Each team is asked questions based on their recommendations and scored accordingly by the panel of judges. This is a great opportunity for students to work together and apply some of the things they have learned while studying for the Envirothon competition. Teams discuss their findings prior to presentation time and decide which of their recommendations is feasible in a real life situation. They are asked to defend and explain their recommended actions. Students are judged on their ability to think on their feet and incorporate their existing knowledge of Soil/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Forestry and the year's current environmental issue articles. No resources outside of what was provided for this year's NC Envirothon will be required.

When is it Held?

The Oral Presentation Component will be held the first day of the contest at the same time station training sessions are held. Teams will rotate through 7 stations. 5 stations will offer training in Aquatics, Current Environmental Issues, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, and Wildlife while the sixth station will be the OPC Preparation station and the seventh will be the Oral Presentation station. Recognition will be given for the top 3 OPC teams with the top scoring OPC team receiving ribbons. Oral Presentation Component recognition and awards are presented at the same time as the traditional Envirothon awards. The second day of the competition will consist of testing on the five subject areas as in previous years.

How Can My Team Prepare?

To help your team prepare for the Oral Presentation Component experience, peruse the North Carolina Envirothon website (http://www.ncenvirothon.org/current_envirothon.htm). The site will contain information on the competition as well as tips for preparing your team for the competition.