

HIGH SCHOOL ORAL PRESENTATION COMPONENT

In 2010, participation in the High School Oral Presentation Component (OPC) will be voluntary and will not count towards the scoring. Starting in 2011 it will be a mandatory part of the North Carolina State Envirothon and will be a part of the scoring to determine the overall winner. Although the 2010 OPC is voluntary, all teams are highly encouraged to participate as it will provide valuable training for the 2011 contest. A 5 minute feedback session with the judges will be added to the 2010 OPC to help in this regard.

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 and then answer the judges' questions during a 20-minute session. Participation in the OPC is mandatory; however, scoring is kept separate from the traditional Envirothon testing stations. 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 emailed to team advisors and posted on the North Carolina Envirothon website two weeks in advance of the competition. Teams will have two weeks to study the presented scenario and to prepare recommendations according to their instructions and provided resources. Teams may only use the materials listed under the OPC rules when preparing visual aids to be used in their presentation. No other materials or electronic devices may be used as visual aids or to assist in their presentation. Team members will be allowed to use standard 3" x 5" note cards. The teams overall knowledge of the required traditional Envirothon resource material serves as a sound knowledge base in preparing for the Oral Presentation Component.

During a 20 minute session, the teams present their recommendations to a panel of judges chosen by the North Carolina Envirothon Committee. A total of three judges constitute a panel. Each team will have up to 15 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 not judged on what is "right" or "wrong", they 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 issue. The scenario is based on the Current Issue theme each year when applicable.

When is it Held?

The Oral Presentation Component is held the first day at the same time station training sessions are held. Teams will rotate through 6 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. 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 not change from 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 the competition.

The scenario used for the 2009 Canon Envirothon oral component is posted on the [ncenvirothon.org](http://www.ncenvirothon.org) web page. This provides an example of the types of issues you may or may not experience at any given Envirothon competition. (<http://www.ncenvirothon.org>)