

# AUDIO-RADIO PRODUCTION BLUEPRINT

This Blueprint contains the subject matter content of this Skill Connect Assessment. This Blueprint does **NOT** contain the information one would need to fully prepare for a SkillsUSA Championships contest. Please refer to the *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* CD-ROM for the current year or purchase and download the relevant "Contest Singles." Both are available through [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org) > Shop > Educational Materials Catalog.

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## Standards and Competencies

### **Plan and produce an audio/radio production, including the proper commercial script form demonstrating digital audio recording, editing and mixing**

- Demonstrate processes in digital audio recording
- Record natural sound on location characterizing the unique sound of that location
- Perform interview on location with an understanding of the purpose and goals of the audio/radio production
- Demonstrate proper techniques in writing the script inclusive of the target audience
- Demonstrate proper techniques in performing voice over on location
- Demonstrate processes in digital audio editing and mixing
- Perform digital audio editing and mixing using a standard application to change and enhance the audio for the target audience
- With the full considerations of the script, Choose and integrate the appropriate audio/radio elements to enhance the presentation for the target audience
- Define and give appropriate examples of the following audio/radio trade vocabulary: Send, Return, Line level, Mic level, Analog, Scrubbing, Digital, Mixer, Target audience, Demographics, Live tag, Format, Run time, PSA, ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, SoundExchange, Commercial, FCC, Voice over

### **Demonstrate knowledge and use of cables and connectors used in audio/radio production**

- Show use of the following audio connectors (male and female for each): XLR, 1/4" balanced, 1/4" unbalanced, and RCA/Phono Plug, Mini's
- Describe pin configuration of balanced cables
- Describe pin configuration of unbalanced cables

### **Implement the skills and knowledge needed to describe and demonstrate Audio/Radio production**

- Differentiate major Microphone Designs
- Describe Directional Characteristics
- Identify and describe handheld and personal microphones
- Position Microphones
- Describe types and uses of various microphones
- Describe phase cancellation
- Describe methods of creating the stereo effect
- Describe Digital audio
- Describe Analog audio
- Identify and describe Communications systems

## **Committee Identified Academic Skills**

The SkillsUSA national technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in the audio production training program and assessment:

### **Math Skills**

- Demonstrate the ability to do basic calculations involving time
- Demonstrate the ability to read and use a variety of clocks and stopwatches

### **Science Skills**

- Use knowledge of sound and technological applications of sound waves

### **Language Arts Skills**

- Demonstrate use of verbal communication skills, such as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice
- Analyze mass media messages
- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of informational texts
- Demonstrate persuasive writing
- Demonstrate informational writing
- Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing

## **Connections to National Standards**

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

### **Math Standards**

- Numbers and operations
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Connections
- Representation

**Source:** NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. To view high school standards, visit: [standards.nctm.org/document/chapter7/index.htm](http://standards.nctm.org/document/chapter7/index.htm). Select “Standards” from menu.

### **Science Standards**

- Understands the sources and properties of energy
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry

**Source:** McREL compendium of national science standards. To view and search the compendium, visit: [www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/](http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/).

### **Language Arts Standards**

- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes
- Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and non-print texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience
- Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge
- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

**Source:** IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit: [www.readwritethink.org/standards/index.html](http://www.readwritethink.org/standards/index.html).