• Review the rubrics. Ensure you are following the rubrics step by step and addressing all items on which you will be evaluated.

• Practice with a live audience and with someone who will be honest with you about areas of strength and areas to improve.

• Videotape your presentation and watch it to see where you can improve.

• Double check all formatting requirements.

• Prior to submitting anything, review it one last time against guidelines. Often times points are lost on items that could have easily been corrected.

• For writing events, work on succinct and clear thesis statements.

• Have confidence. You have done the work. Now is the time to be proud and have fun.

• Show enthusiasm for the topic.

• In presentations, be more conversational and less scripted. Don't read directly from notes.

• Be bold creative in your presentations. Do something other people aren’t doing.

• Speak loudly and clearly.

• Verbalize in a confident and concise manner.

• Use the verbiage from the guidelines to create your portfolio so it is easier for judges to follow.

• PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!