

SkillsUSA Framework

In-person lesson plan, **Student Leaders**



Pre-Work

Objective:

Identify the components and Essential Elements of the SkillsUSA Framework.

Length:

20-25 minutes

Supplies:

- Visual of the SkillsUSA Framework + Essential Elements
- Paper and writing utensil for each student



[Download the SkillsUSA Framework here.](#)

Opening *3 minutes*

When I say go, turn to the person closest to you and take one minute to create a definition for the word “framework.” (Not SkillsUSA-related.) Go!

Once time is up, gather responses from each group.

Great answers! A framework is the skeletal structure that provides support to things such as buildings and vehicles. SkillsUSA also has a framework.

At this point, display the SkillsUSA Framework with the Essential Elements at the front of the room. (Use a whiteboard, poster, or projector.) This is what the SkillsUSA Framework looks like. Let’s learn more!

Content *15 minutes*

Number students off so that you are left with groups of three to four. When I say go, find your groups as fast as you can. Once you find your groups, you have one minute to create a group handshake. Ready, go!

Get everyone’s attention back after one minute.

Now, when the music starts, your team will have seven minutes to create a menu for a three-course meal. Once you’ve decided what the dish will be for each course, create a list of all the ingredients you need to create that dish. When you are done, do your group handshake to signal that you are finished. What questions are there?

But wait, first you need supplies! Everyone point a finger in the air. On the count of three, point to the captain on your team. One, two, three! The person with the most fingers pointed at is in charge of coming up to the front of the room and grabbing paper and writing utensils for each member of the group. Go!

Play the music and allow students to create their menu.

Once the time is up, facilitate a brief discussion using these questions as a guide:

- What dishes are on your menu?
- What ingredients do you need to create those dishes?
- What are some similarities you see between the menus you created and the SkillsUSA Framework?

Just like your three-course meal, the SkillsUSA Framework has three components. As you can see on the board, they are Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, and Technical Skills grounded in Academics. The components encompass 17 Essential Elements.

Essential Elements are skills that industry partners say are important for any future career. These Essential Elements are like your ingredients for each course. The SkillsUSA Framework is essential to our organization because it provides a common language for all members to describe how you've grown in specific career-readiness skills.

Closing *7 minutes*

Send your captain back up to collect a piece of paper and a writing utensil for each person in the room. Once they return, when I say "go," take three minutes and identify one Essential Element from each of the three components of the SkillsUSA Framework that you think you need to improve in. Write a short description for each one. What questions are there? Ready, go!

When time is up, have students share what they wrote in their groups. As soon as everyone gets a chance to share, do your group handshake one last time, to signal to me that you are all done.

Once all groups have finished sharing, ask a few students to share with the whole group what Essential Elements they are hoping to improve in and why. Remember to affirm students' answers.

Just like knowing the ingredients is important in being able to cook the meal, identifying the Essential Elements you want to improve in is key in improving your Personal, Workplace, and Technical Skills. Think about how difficult it would be to cook a meal you didn't know how to make without knowing the ingredients or the recipe! What you've done here today has helped you create your own recipe for success during your time in SkillsUSA.

Thank students for their engagement and provide encouragement for students to get involved with SkillsUSA as a way to improve the Essential Elements they identified.