



## Public Speaking Competition

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### Overview

Self-composure, confidence, and the ability to clearly articulate and communicate information are valuable skills for all educators. The Public Speaking Competition is designed to highlight students who demonstrate these qualities by combining thoughtful preparation and confident delivery into an interesting presentation on a current education topic.

Students participating in this competition will compose and deliver a speech of approximately 400 to 600 words (three to five minutes when spoken aloud) on the assigned topic. Contestants will deliver the presentation during a Zoom video session on the day of the virtual conference.

This is an individual competition. Only one student entry per chapter will be considered. Each chapter must select one student to represent them. Twelve (12) entries total will be accepted for this competition. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Assigned Topic

Online learning has been a growing trend among K-12 students nationwide. According to the [Thomas B. Fordham Institute](#), roughly 5 million students across the United States took part in digital learning in the 2015-2016 school year, and many students in grades K-12 received a high-quality education online through a full-time online public school.

The COVID-19-related school closures across the country forced a shift to distance learning and a crash course for online learning plans and technology for students and teachers. Despite the many challenges that teachers, parents and students faced during the abrupt transition to distance learning last spring, some parents and students are finding that they prefer online education. Teachers are adapting to virtual classrooms and learning online teaching strategies to support their students.

What does this mean for the future of teaching and learning? Is virtual teaching a skill of the future? What factors must be considered when planning instruction in a virtual classroom? What barriers might a teacher encounter when delivering distance learning? How could a teacher overcome these barriers?



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### Competition Guidelines

- A. The sponsoring teacher must submit the Online Competition Entry Form **by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2020.**
  - Students must not read their entire speeches from their notecards.
- B. The speech must be about the assigned topic. Research and use of data are encouraged.
- C. The length of the speech should be approximately 400 to 600 words (three to five minutes when spoken aloud) in length.
- D. The contestant may use up to five 4x6 inch index cards while delivering his or her speech. Only one side of each index card may be used for notes.
- E. Notecards should have notes, not the full text of the speech.
- F. The contestant will deliver the presentation live during a Zoom video session on the day of the virtual conference.
- G. Each presentation is to be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes. A timekeeper will record the time used by each contestant. In order to adhere to the schedule, the judges will stop any speech that exceeds five minutes.
- H. Contestants will receive indication that there is one minute remaining when they reach the four-minute mark of their speeches.

### Judging and Scoring

- A. The judges' decision is final.
- B. Contestants agree to be bound by the FEA General Competition Rules and Code of Ethics for Virtual Events and the decisions of the judges.
- C. The entry will be scored using the Public Speaking Competition rubric.

### How to Enter

- A. The sponsoring teacher must complete and submit the Online Competition Entry Form.
- B. A link to access the form will be emailed to the sponsoring teacher after a group has been created on the Eventbrite registration site and the chapter sponsoring teacher has registered to attend the event.
- C. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.



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### Speech Content & Delivery

Points Available	Accomplished 8 – 7	Commendable 6 – 5	Developing 4 – 3	Needs Improvement 2 – 1
Depth & Insight	The speech reflects a deep and comprehensive understanding of multiple viewpoints on the issue. It addresses the challenges and well-founded solutions	The speech reflects an understanding of the issue and proposes well-founded solutions. With some revisions, it could gain better understanding.	The speech is on-topic. It offers multiple points but is inconsistent in proposing solutions. It needs further research.	The speech reflects limited understanding of the issue and solutions proposed are not relevant.
Structure	The speech reflects a command of how to build and deliver a powerful message. It is successfully and strategically structured.	The speech reflects an effort to develop a compelling message. It is structured in a logical way.	The speech lacks strength at multiple moments. The structure is weak in one or more areas.	The speech reflects an attempt to address the issue but is missing structure.
Delivery	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact and tone were expertly crafted to deliver the maximum impact and understanding to the listener.	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact and tone were strong, and the listener was able to understand the speaker's intent.	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact and tone were inconsistent and distracted the listener from understanding.	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact and tone were inconsistent, and the listener did not understand the speaker's intent.
Impact	The content was delivered seamlessly to craft an exceptional experience. The speech is ready to be delivered to education stakeholders.	The content was delivered to offer a commendable speech. With some revisions the speech would be ready to deliver to education stakeholders.	The content was delivered with an effort to engage the audience. The speech needs many revisions before being delivered to education stakeholders.	The content and delivery would benefit from guided practice. Significant errors would need to be improved.