



Public Speaking Competition

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. Competitors will deliver their speech in front of on-site judges.

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

School closures and the shift to virtual learning during the 2020-21 school year greatly impacted student learning and caused many students to lose valuable learning time. According to McKinsey & Company, “the average loss in our middle epidemiological scenario is seven months. But black students may fall behind by 10.3 months, Hispanic students by 9.2 months, and low-income students by more than a year.” Students often fall behind because they lack the technology, home environment, and supports needed for them to progress in a virtual setting. If this learning loss is left unaddressed, these students are also more likely to drop out, resulting in a lifetime of lower income

What strategies can school systems put in place to combat the learning loss in these at-risk students?

(Citation <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/covid-19-and-student-learning-in-the-united-states-the-hurt-could-last-a-lifetime#>)



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Competition Guidelines

- A. The sponsoring teacher must submit the [Online Competition Entry Form](#) **by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 28, 2022.**
- 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 competitor 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. Students must not read their entire speeches from their notecards.
- F. 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 competitor. In order to adhere to the schedule, the judges will stop any speech that exceeds five minutes.
- G. Competitors will receive a visual, non-verbal 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. Competitors agree to be bound by the FEA General Competition Rules.
- C. The entry will be scored using the Public Speaking Competition rubric.

How to Enter

- A. All entries for individual and/or chapter competitions must be submitted by the chapter's sponsoring teacher via the [Online Competition Entry Form](#) **by 5:00pm, October 28, 2022.**
- B. 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.